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GENEALOGICAL  
AND  
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD  
OF  
KENDALL AND WILL COUNTIES,  
ILLINOIS

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Containing Biographies of Well Known Citizens of the  
Past and Present

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BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHICAGO

1901



1198548

## PREFACE.

**A**MONG the counties of Illinois, Kendall and Will occupy a foremost rank. From the earliest period of their settlement to the present time, their citizens have been progressive, enterprising and public spirited. They have not only developed the agricultural, commercial and manufacturing resources of the counties, but have maintained a commendable interest in public affairs, have been liberal contributors to movements of an educational, religious and philanthropic nature, and have given to their commonwealth some of its ablest statesmen. In the lives of the citizens, indeed, is the history of the counties best narrated; and those who read the following pages will become acquainted with men and movements inseparably associated with local progress.

In the preparation for the data of this work a number of writers have been engaged for many months. They have visited leading citizens and have studied local history, using every endeavor to produce a work accurate and trustworthy in even the smallest detail. Owing to the great care taken in the compilation of the work and to the fact that every opportunity was given to those represented to insure correctness in the biographies, the publishers believe that they are giving to their readers a volume containing few errors of consequence. The biographies of some representative citizens will be missed from the work; this in some instances was caused by absence from home when our writers called, and in other instances was caused by a failure on the part of the men themselves to understand the scope of the work. The publishers, however, have done everything within their power to make the volume a representative biographical work.

The value of the data herein presented will grow with the passing years. Posterity will preserve the work with care, from the fact that it perpetuates biographical history which would otherwise be wholly lost. In those now far-distant days will be realized, to a greater degree than at the present time, the truth of Macauley's statement that "The history of a country is best told in a record of the lives of its people."

BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING CO.

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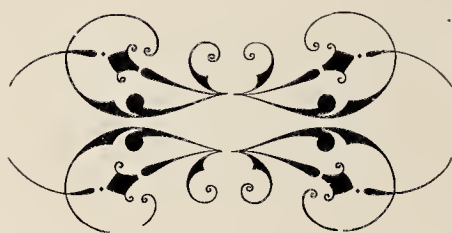




“Let the record be made of the men and things of to-day, lest they pass out of memory to-morrow and are lost. Then perpetuate them not upon wood or stone that crumble to dust, but upon paper, chronicled in picture and in words that endure forever.”—KIRKLAND.



"A true delineation of the smallest man and his scene of pilgrimage through life is capable of interesting the greatest man. All men are to an unspeakable degree brothers, each man's life a strange emblem of every man's; and human portraits, faithfully drawn, are, of all pictures, the welcomest on human walls."—THOMAS CARLYLE.



## INTRODUCTORY

**B**IOGRAPHY alone can justly represent the progress of local history and portray with accuracy the relation of men to events. It is the only means of perpetuating the lives and deeds of those men to whom the advancement of a city or county and the enlightenment of its people are due. The compilers of this work have striven to honor, not only men of present prominence, but also, as far as possible, those who in years gone by labored to promote the welfare of their community. The following sketches have been prepared from the standpoint of no man's prejudice, but with an impartial aim to render justice to progressive and public-spirited citizens and to collect personal records that will be of value to generations yet to come.

To be forgotten has been the great dread of mankind from remotest ages. All will be forgotten soon enough, in spite of their best works and the most earnest efforts of their friends to preserve the memory of their lives. The means employed to prevent oblivion and to perpetuate their memory have been in proportion to the amount of intelligence they possessed. The pyramids of Egypt were built to perpetuate the names and deeds of their great rulers. The exhumations made by the archæologists of Egypt from buried Memphis indicate a desire of those people to perpetuate the memory of their achievements. The erection of the great obelisks was for the same purpose. Coming down to a later period, we find the Greeks and Romans erecting mausoleums and monuments, and carving out statues to chronicle their great achievements and carry them down the ages. It is also evident that the Mound-builders, in piling up their great mounds of earth, had but this idea—to leave something to show that they had lived. All these works, though many of them costly in the extreme, give but a faint idea of the lives and character of those whose memory they were intended to perpetuate, and scarcely anything of the masses of the people that then lived. The great pyramids and some of the obelisks remain objects only of curiosity; the mausoleums, monuments and statues are crumbling into dust.

It was left to modern ages to establish an intelligent, undecaying, immutable method of perpetuating a full history—immutable in that it is almost unlimited in extent and perpetual in its action; and this is through the art of printing.

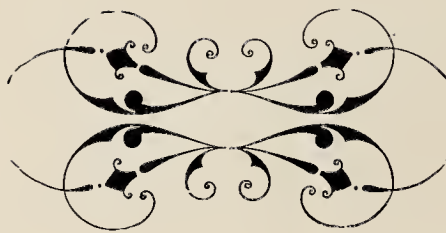
To the present generation, however, we are indebted for the introduction of the admirable system of local biography. By this system every man, though he has not achieved what the world calls greatness, has the means to perpetuate his life, his history, through the coming ages.

The scythe of Time cuts down all; nothing of the physical man is left. The monument which his children or friends may erect to his memory in the cemetery will crumble into dust and pass away; but his life, his achievements, the work he has accomplished, which otherwise would be forgotten, is perpetuated by a record of this kind.

To preserve the lineaments of our companions we engrave their portraits; for the same reason we collect the attainable facts of their history. Nor do we think it necessary, as we speak only truth of them, to wait until they are dead, or until those who know them are gone; to do this we are ashamed only to publish to the world the history of those whose lives are unworthy of public record.













*George D. Munroe*

## HON. GEORGE H. MUNROE.

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**H**ON. GEORGE H. MUNROE. In a career honorable alike to himself and the city long his home, Mr. Munroe has displayed those traits of character without which success is impossible. Few citizens have done more than he toward the development of Joliet and particularly toward the improvement of Chicago street, the building up of which is largely due to his efforts. From the time he reached his majority to the present he has been an important factor in Joliet's business enterprises, and his name is intimately associated with a number of well-known concerns, notable among these being the Western Stone Company, of which he is vice-president and a large stockholder; also the Joliet National Bank, of which he is a director and one of the largest stockholders. With his brother, Edwin S., he conducts a real-estate and mortgage, banking and general trust company's business, and has platted numerous additions and subdivisions, probably twenty in all.

Near Watertown, N. Y., Mr. Munroe was born, September 24, 1844, being a son of George Munroe, whose sketch appears on another page. He was five years of age when the family settled on a farm in this county, and his education was obtained mostly in the public schools of the town of Florence and in private schools in Wilmington and Joliet. From an early age he showed that he possessed great energy and determination of character, and while still a mere youth he filled the position of deputy sheriff efficiently for a period of two years. In the year 1865 he became connected with his father, George Munroe, in the establishment of the firm of G. Munroe & Son, of which he was a member until the death of his father in 1890 caused its dissolution. It is

said that he is the largest holder of real estate in Joliet to-day, and certainly the firm of Munroe Brothers is by far the largest real-estate firm in the city. In addition to his other interests he has had the two most important receiverships in the county. In 1868, when the state penitentiary changed from the contract system to state accounts, he was appointed receiver of the Illinois Manufacturing Company, which had the lease and all of the business there at the time. He settled the affairs of the company, made the sale to the state, and divided about \$250,000 net among the stockholders. He also acted as receiver of the Joliet Enterprise Company, his management of which and of other large trusts added to his already high reputation as a financier.

Fraternally Mr. Munroe is connected with Matteson Lodge, A. F. & A. M. St. John's Universalist Church, of whose board of trustees he was for many years the president, has received the benefit of his practical business experience, and he was the leading spirit in the erection of the large auditorium on the corner of North Chicago and Clinton streets. He assisted in organizing the Joliet Business Men's Association and was one of its presidents. He is a member of the Union League and Marquette Clubs of Chicago and the Stone City Club of Joliet. His marriage, in this city, united him with Miss Eva Weeks, only daughter of Judge Charles H. Weeks. Mrs. Munroe was educated at Miss Skinner's private school at Naperville, Ill. She is a lady of culture and refinement and is among the leaders of society in this city, where her tact as hostess and her rare qualities of head and heart have secured her lifelong friends. The



home of Senator Munroe have been brightened by the presence of two children: Esther, now the wife of Jesse J. Shuman, of Cleveland, Ohio, and George Fuller Munroe.

Any review of the life of Mr. Munroe would be incomplete without considerable mention of his service in the state senate and his devotion to the interests of his fellow-citizens. He has never been an office-seeker nor a politician, in the ordinary acceptance of that word. At the same time he is an ardent Republican, pronounced in his support of party principles. In 1894 he was elected to the state senate, succeeding a Democrat and receiving a majority of more than twenty-five hundred, the Democratic city of Joliet giving him a majority of eleven hundred. In the thirty-ninth general assembly he was chairman of the committee on waterways and drainage, and a member of the judiciary, appropriations, canals and rivers, farm drainage, mines and mining, fees and salaries, printing, state library, and arts and sciences committees. On the convening of the fortieth general assembly he was again made chairman of the committee on waterways and drainage, in which capacity he secured valuable concessions and improvements for the local interests along the great waterway and through the Illinois valley. In this assembly he was the second member on the Republican steering committee, and a member of the committee appointed to visit state educational institutions. He was also a member of the committees on railroads, finance, revenue, insurance, penal and reformatory institutions, canals and rivers, agriculture and horticulture, labor and manufacture, county and township organization, state library, and arts and sciences. Among the important measures which were secured through his efforts may be mentioned the following: a bill for amending rights of eminent domain, compelling corporations to pay expenses in condemnation cases, where they failed to take the property; the parole law; an amendment to the general banking laws of the state, throwing greater safeguards around the bank for the benefit of its depositors; the amending of the school laws of Joliet, increasing

the number of school inspectors; the establishment of the Woman's Relief Corps home at Wilmington, this county, now a fine and thriving institution; and the establishment of a female prison on separate grounds from those of the Illinois state penitentiary. When the Humphrey bills were brought before the senate he was largely instrumental in creating that strong public sentiment against the bills which made their ultimate success impossible. It was largely due to his watchfulness that the sanitary drainage district did not secure a single change in their interest from the original bill; two tax bills only were passed permitting the trustees to tax their district for more funds and in both of these bills suitable amendments in behalf of the valley people were added, one for the necessary amount of water and the other requiring swinging bridges, thus making it a navigable channel. At the expiration of his term as senator he was not a candidate for re-election. There were many who desired him to become a candidate for governor, but, with characteristic unselfishness, he threw his influence toward securing another Will County citizen, Hon. E. C. Akin, as nominee for attorney-general.

The life of Senator Munroe furnishes an example worthy of emulation by the young men of this generation, many of whom have occasion to remember his fatherly interest in their personal or business affairs. To those who study the history of Joliet in the years to come his name will always stand out pre-eminently as its most public-spirited citizen. It is to such men as he that Joliet owes its present prosperity. When the city was far smaller than now and few anticipated its steady growth and development, he always had the greatest faith in its future, and that firm faith was never shaken by times of financial depression. It has been a privilege to witness the realization of many of his hopes, although in his opinion the city has before it a future even greater than its past. To promote its progress and to advance the interests of its citizens have formed no small part of his work in life, and while he has labored quietly and unostentatiously,

he has labored none the less effectively in the promotion of enterprises that will conserve the permanent welfare of the city.

Few people realize the true value of a thoroughly honest and capable public-spirited citizen of the Munroe type, of which this great republic has none too many. Though able to fill any office in the gift of the people, his modesty has been a bar to the realization of ambitious hopes. A future generation will fondly look on the portraits of such men and study their character in the annals of local history. Then the unselfish work of Senator Munroe in the Republican party, in his state and in Joliet, will be given greater praise; his noble effort to secure a home for the Woman's Relief Corps at Wilmington will be better understood, and his conscientious work in the affairs of the drainage canal more thoroughly appreciated, and will then be given unstinted praise.

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**G**EORGE MUNROE. The genealogy of the Munroe family is traced back to the year 1050, when it flourished in the extreme north of Scotland. Later generations removed to Lanarkshire, near the English border. During the seventeenth century some of the name served in the army of the ill-fated Charles I. The traits of character for which the Scotch are noted were noticeable in the life of the subject of this sketch and were large factors in his business success. He was born in Lanarkshire April 4, 1821, a son of Daniel and Jane (Richmond) Munroe. His father, who was a woolen manufacturer, brought the family to America in 1827 and settled in Brownville, Jefferson County, N. Y., where he followed his chosen occupation. At an early period in the history of Joliet he came to this city and acted as manager of the woolen mill which at that time stood near the Jefferson street bridge. Later he improved a farm in Florence Township, where he died in 1860. He had long survived his wife, who passed away in Brownville in 1829. They were the parents of three children: George, Angus and Barbara.

Having learned the moulder's trade, the subject of this sketch was made foreman of a foundry in Brownville. In 1849 he settled in Florence Township, this county, where he engaged in farming. In 1862 he was elected sheriff, which office he filled for one term. In 1865 he and his son, George H., embarked in the grocery business, and they continued as partners until his death. For ten years they occupied a building on the corner of Jefferson and Chicago streets, after which for six years they conducted business in the Opera House building. In 1884 they erected the first large building on Chicago street, and in it they carried on a very large and successful wholesale business; this building, since remodeled, is now the Munroe Hotel. The partnership continued until the death of the senior member of the firm in 1890.

In the midst of his important business interests Mr. Munroe nevertheless kept in touch with local affairs and contributed his quota to the advancement of his city. As alderman and school trustee he was helpful in public and educational matters, and for three years he served the county as its treasurer, being first chosen to fill a vacancy in the office and subsequently elected without opposition. Fraternally he was a Knight Templar Mason. He aided in religious movements and was identified with the Methodist Church, in which he served as a trustee. In his character he combined those qualities of heart and mind that rendered him deservedly popular and secured to him the warm friendship of his associates. Beginning for himself with limited means he steadily, by perseverance and good management, won a prominent place in the business world, where his talents were recognized and appreciated. Methodical and exact in transactions, conservative in judgment, and careful in his decisions, he possessed the qualities which go to make success in the world of commerce. As one of the pioneers of the county, and a man whose energies were devoted to the development of its resources, his name is worthy of perpetuation on the pages of local history.

December 22, 1842, Sarah M. Hentze became the wife of Mr. Munroe. She was born in Brown-



ville, N. Y., a daughter of Henry and Charity (Gould) Hentze. Her father, who was born in Rutland, Vt., was a son of Henry Hentze, a Hessian soldier brought by England to America at the time of the Revolutionary war; who, later, being in sympathy with the struggle for freedom, deserted and joined the Americans; he was a descendant of a large landed proprietor of Germany. The father of Mrs. Munroe brought his family via the lakes on the steamer "Mayflower" to Chicago, where Mr. Munroe met them with teams and brought them to Wilmington. In 1852 he and his son George went overland with ox-teams to California, where he engaged in mining until his death; many years afterward his son came back to Joliet. Mrs. Munroe died in this city in 1895. Of her five children all but one are still living. The eldest, George H., is represented on another page. Jennie A. is the wife of Rev. G. R. Van Horn, of Rockford, Ill., who is a prominent minister in the Rock River conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mary E. is the wife of Charles B. Hayward, of Joliet; and Edwin S. is a partner of his older brother in the real-estate business.

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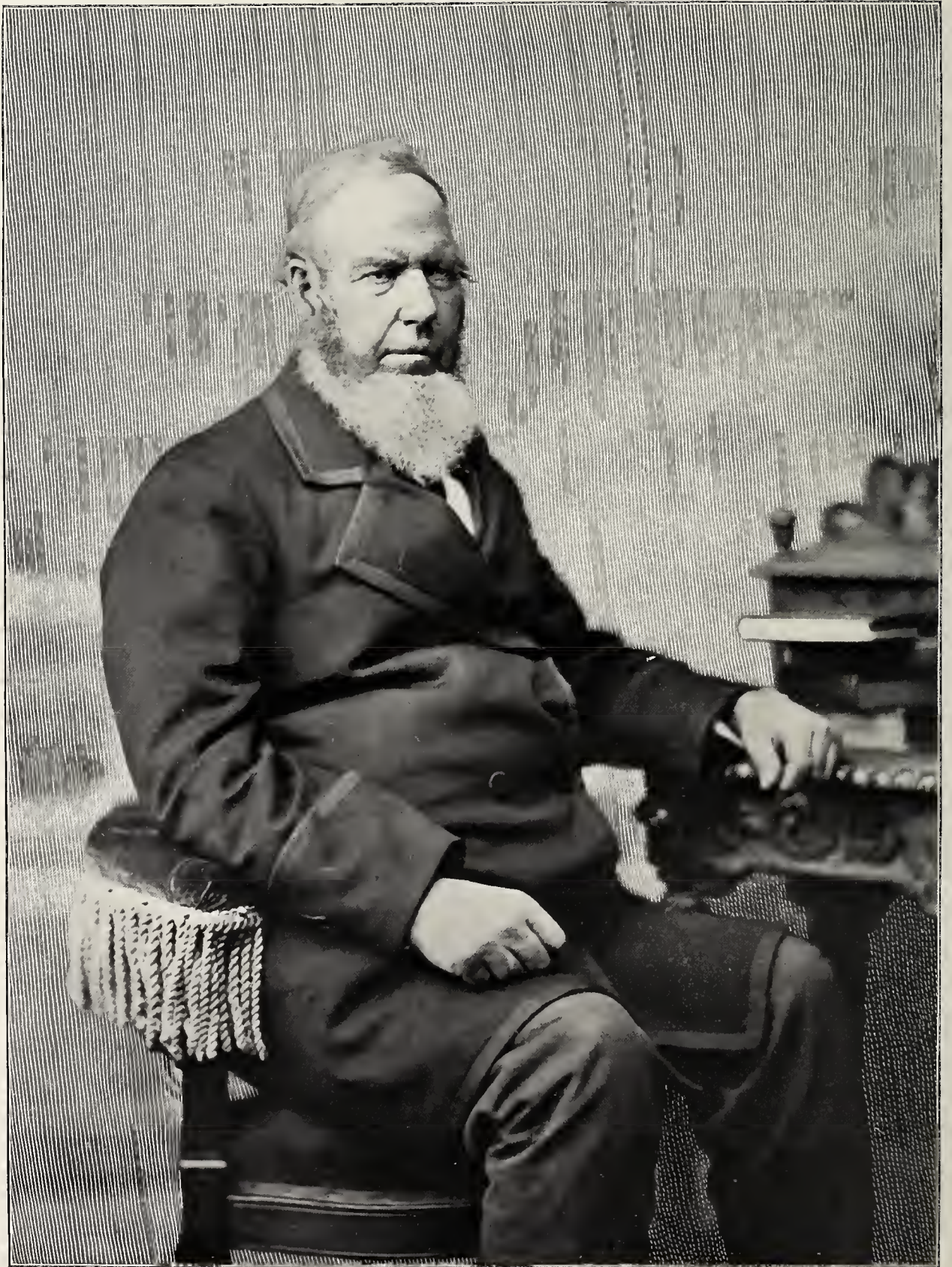
**H**ON. JOEL A. MATTESON, governor of Illinois 1853-56, was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., August 8, 1808. When a boy he was employed in Prescott, Canada. His later years were filled with varied employments, teaching school, improving a farm, working on railroads in the south, visiting the gold diggings of northern Georgia, etc. In 1833, with his wife and one child, he came to Illinois and entered a claim in what is now Kendall County. At that time there were only three or four houses between his place and Chicago. In 1835 he bought largely at the government land sales, but the following year sold his land and settled in Joliet. In 1838 he became a heavy contractor on the Illinois and

Michigan canal, which contract he completed in 1841. One of his next ventures was the establishment of a woolen mill in Joliet, which, with subsequent enlargements, became an enormous factory.

His connection with public and political affairs began in 1842, when he was elected to the state senate. His service was so satisfactory that he was twice re-elected, and during the entire time held the position of chairman of the committee on finance. At the same time he superintended his woolen mill and also again became a heavy contractor on the canal. At the Democratic state convention, April 20, 1852, he was nominated for governor. At the election he received a good majority. During his term of office the most exciting occurrence was the repeal of the Missouri compromise by congress, under the leadership of Stephen A. Douglas, in 1854, when the bill was passed organizing the territory of Kansas and Nebraska. Before his term expired the Republicans were fully organized as a party and in 1856 put into the field a ticket, which carried the state, but not the nation. The legislature of 1855 passed two important bills, the present free-school system and the submission of the Maine liquor law to the vote of the people. The latter was defeated by a small majority of the popular vote. During his term the taxable wealth of the state was trebled; the public debt reduced; taxation reduced; railroads increased in mileage from less than 400 to more than 3,000; and the commerce of Chicago quadrupled. Upon his retirement from office Governor Matteson resumed the management of his extensive business interests in Joliet. He did much toward the up-building of this city and gave employment to many workmen. Toward those in need he was always generous, and many a poor man has reason to remember him with deepest gratitude. Toward the close of his life he relinquished, to some extent, the management of his extensive interests, but he continued to be, in old age, as in early life, a very active, busy man. He died in Chicago during the winter of 1872-73.







Chas. C. Bissell



## MARTIN C. BISSELL.

MARTIN C. BISSELL. Through a life that was prolonged to an advanced age Mr. Bissell proved himself to be an active man of affairs and a successful financier, managing every enterprise that he undertook in such a way as to bring it to a fortunate termination. Having made his home in this city for many years and owning valuable property interests in this locality, he became well known by the people of the town, and was by them recognized as a man of unusual force of character. At his death, which occurred April 12, 1888, a portion of his estate was left to relatives and the remainder was bequeathed to the Swedenborgian Church, of whose teachings he was an ardent supporter.

The Bissell family came from France to New England in an early day. Noah Bissell, who was a Vermonter, possessed the quality of divination to a remarkable degree and foretold the day and hour when his spirit would leave its earthly tenement house. Aaron, a son of Noah, served in the war of 1812 and spent his early life near Rutland, Vt. From there he moved to the vicinity of Burlington, the same state, and after the war of 1812 settled in Oneida County, N. Y. His son, the subject of this article, was born in Huntington, Chittenden County, Vt., in June, 1802. When the family removed to New York he worked on a farm for \$4 a month. At fourteen years of age he secured employment with a farmer in Pompey, Cayuga County. This man, who was a Presbyterian of the old school, became convinced that the boy was one of the elect and decided to educate him for missionary work, so sent him to a Presbyterian school at Homer. The officers of the school concluded to take the boy, but said they must have absolute control of

him, but the parents refused to give their consent to this, so Mr. Bissell's future was changed.

Learning the mason's trade at Lansing, N. Y., he afterward worked at Ithaca and on the Champlain canal locks, and was foreman in the construction of masonry at Rochester. While working on the canal at Elmira, N. Y., he married Miss Eliza Wells, in 1826. Later he had a contract for masonry on the Allegheny canal at Cuba, Pa. On the completion of that work he moved to Cass County, Mich., and bought a farm, where he lived for three years. However, agricultural pursuits were not congenial, and he returned to contracting. He constructed a section of the Michigan Central Railroad, later had a contract on the Illinois Central, meantime making Bloomington, Ill., his home. Later he had contracts in Iowa and Missouri. The year 1854 found him a resident of Joliet, where he afterward made his headquarters, although his business interests required his almost constant presence in other places. As a railroad contractor he was successful. Possessing great energy and force of will, he was fitted for the work of superintending large contracts and overseeing a corps of men. During all of the years in which he engaged in railroad contracting he had many experiences incident to life upon the frontier, in the midst of primeval surroundings. He never forgot his experiences during the cholera epidemic in 1854, and particularly one trip that he made by canal boat from Pekin to Chicago, when half of the men on the boat died of that dread disease.

Aside from his contracting business Mr. Bissell had other interests. At one time he owned a store at Niles, Mich., which was managed by Giles Heath with flattering success. His prop-

erty interests were valuable, and included a farm near Chicago, another near Cassopolis, Mich., and many tracts of land in Illinois and Iowa, besides a large amount of real estate in and near Joliet. He and his wife were childless, and on the death of the latter, which occurred December 30, 1889, their valuable estate was inherited by relatives and by the church to whose doctrines they had long adhered. He was a man of original ideas, very outspoken in the expression of his opinion, and possessing the courage of his convictions. At a time when the principle of abolition was very unpopular he was known as a "black Abolitionist," which in the minds of many was next to being a "black man." He did not flinch in the face of much opposition. He stood beside Frederick Douglass in Young's (now Werner's) hall in Joliet and introduced him to the audience in the spirit of one who believes all men to be brothers. Though skeptical in business matters, requiring every proposition to be submitted to the severest test, in religion he presented a phase of character directly opposite, and accepted, fully and completely, the transcendental teachings of the New Church, in which faith he lived and died.

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**MISS FRANCES M. WEED.** The family of which Miss Weed is a member was founded in America by three brothers from England, who settled in Stamford, Conn. One of these was her grandfather, Jonas, who served as a member of Washington's body-guard during the Revolutionary war, and was afterward accidentally killed in Connecticut. His son, Munson, a native of Stamford, was bound to a trade in youth, but being of an adventurous disposition the confinement of his work was irksome to him, and he ran away to sea, shipping on a whaler engaged in the whaling business on the Atlantic. Later he was in the trans-Atlantic and West India trade. After eleven years as a sailor he returned to his home. Later he settled in Danby, near Ithaca, N. Y., where he engaged in farming and

died in 1867. In religion he was a Baptist. He was a cousin of Thurlow Weed, whose father, Hezekiah, came from England with Jonas Weed. The mother of Munson Weed attained a great age, lacking only a few days of one hundred years at the time of her death. She was related to the Wisners, of Orange County, N. Y., one of whom served as a commissioned officer in the Revolutionary war and was killed in the battle of Minisink. Her brother, Usal Knapp, was the last survivor of the famous Washington life guards. When he was sixteen years of age he entered the service as water boy for General Washington, and blacked his boots, cared for his horses, etc. He served for seven years in the Revolutionary war. For forty years he was a member of the Presbyterian church, and attended services regularly, even when he had rounded a century of life. He was a man of hospitable nature, and those who stayed beneath his roof never forgot his large-hearted hospitality; his guests always found their boots blacked in the morning, and in many other ways he showed a thoughtful courtesy and kindness toward every visitor. He died at Little Britain, Orange County, when one hundred and four years of age. His was the largest funeral ever known in the county. He was buried with military honors, seven military companies being present, and thirteen cannon were fired over his grave. His body was interred at Washington's headquarters, and his resting place is marked by a monument, erected by the state, and bearing the inscription, "The last of the bodyguard."

The marriage of Munson Weed united him with Miss Polly Bissell, who was born in Rutland, Vt., September 25, 1796, and settled at Danby in 1818. She was a daughter of Aaron and Mary Bissell, and a sister of Martin C. Bissell, whose sketch appears in this volume. Surviving her husband for many years, she passed away April 6, 1891, at the age of ninety-four years, six months and eleven days. She lived under the administration of every president of the United States up to her death. She distinctly remembered having heard the guns at the battle of Lake Champlain. Her memory remained un-



impaired until death. Of her ten children six are living, namely: William, of West Danby, N. Y.; Harriet, Mrs. H. N. Bement, of Pennsylvania; Almira, who married Alfred Vose, of Spencer, N. Y.; Mary E., who married D. T. Fish, late of Newfield, N. Y.; Edwin, a contractor in Ithaca, N. Y.; and Frances M. Not a little of the success which the children have attained is due to the influence of their mother, who was a woman of remarkably strong character and intelligence.

In the public schools of Danby, N. Y., and the college at Naperville, Ill., Miss Weed received an excellent education, and after leaving college she was engaged in educational work in this county for a number of years. Of a benevolent disposition, she is identified with the Dorcas Society and devotes much of her time to relieving the wants of the worthy poor. In the Ladies Order of Maccabees she holds office as keeper of records. She is a believer in the teachings of the Swedenborgian Church, of which her uncle, M. C. Bissell, was one of the leading members, and to which he contributed much of his fortune. She maintains an intelligent interest in public affairs and upholds Republican principles. The management of her property interests requires much of her time and thought, and in it she has displayed business ability and good judgment. She is the owner of four acres comprising her homestead at No. 1502 Cass street, and also owns two hundred and twenty acres near Chicago, on the Wabash Railroad, and within a few rods of the feeder for the canal.

on the tract, building a frame house on the eight-acre piece, and making other improvements that added to its value. As he prospered he added to his farm until he owned three hundred and thirty-five acres on sections 17 and 18. Of this he afterward gave his son a quarter section, and the two now own, together, two hundred and seventy acres (fifteen being in Indiana just across the state line). They have brought the land under first-class improvement, and have drained it by means of one hundred thousand tile. He was a pioneer in introducing tiling, and paid as much as \$38 for four-inch tiles that now sell for \$12. The idea of tiling at first seemed ludicrous to his acquaintances, but after a time they saw the utility of it and became interested themselves. While he engaged in general farming, for some years his specialty was the dairy business, and he had on his place a number of full blooded and high-grade Holsteins. In 1889 he left his place in charge of his son and moved to Beecher, where he carried on a grain business for a short time, and where he has since made his home.

Of a family of eight, five of whom grew to mature years, Mr. Wilke was third in order of birth, and is the sole survivor. Four of the family came to America, of whom one daughter died in Indiana, another in Iroquois County, Ill., and Christ, who came to America in 1850, died at the home of his brother Fred. The father, Herman Wilke, a native of Westphalia, Germany, was pressed into the Napoleonic army at the time of the march to Moscow, and was one of the few who returned from that ill-fated expedition. From that time he engaged in farming until he died, at fifty-nine years. He married Katherine Waltman, who was born in Westphalia and died there when thirty-nine years old.

In Westphalia, where he was born March 17, 1829, our subject grew to manhood on his father's large farm, and received his education in German schools and under private tutorship. The death of his father put an end to his classical studies and forced him into the world of commercial activity. After working for an uncle for a time, in 1850 he entered the Fifteenth Reg-

**H**ON. FREDERICK WILKE, chairman of the board of supervisors, is one of Will County's best known citizens. He has been one of the property owners of this county since 1857, when he visited Illinois and purchased slightly improved land lying on section 17, Washington Township. Three years later he returned to the county and established his home

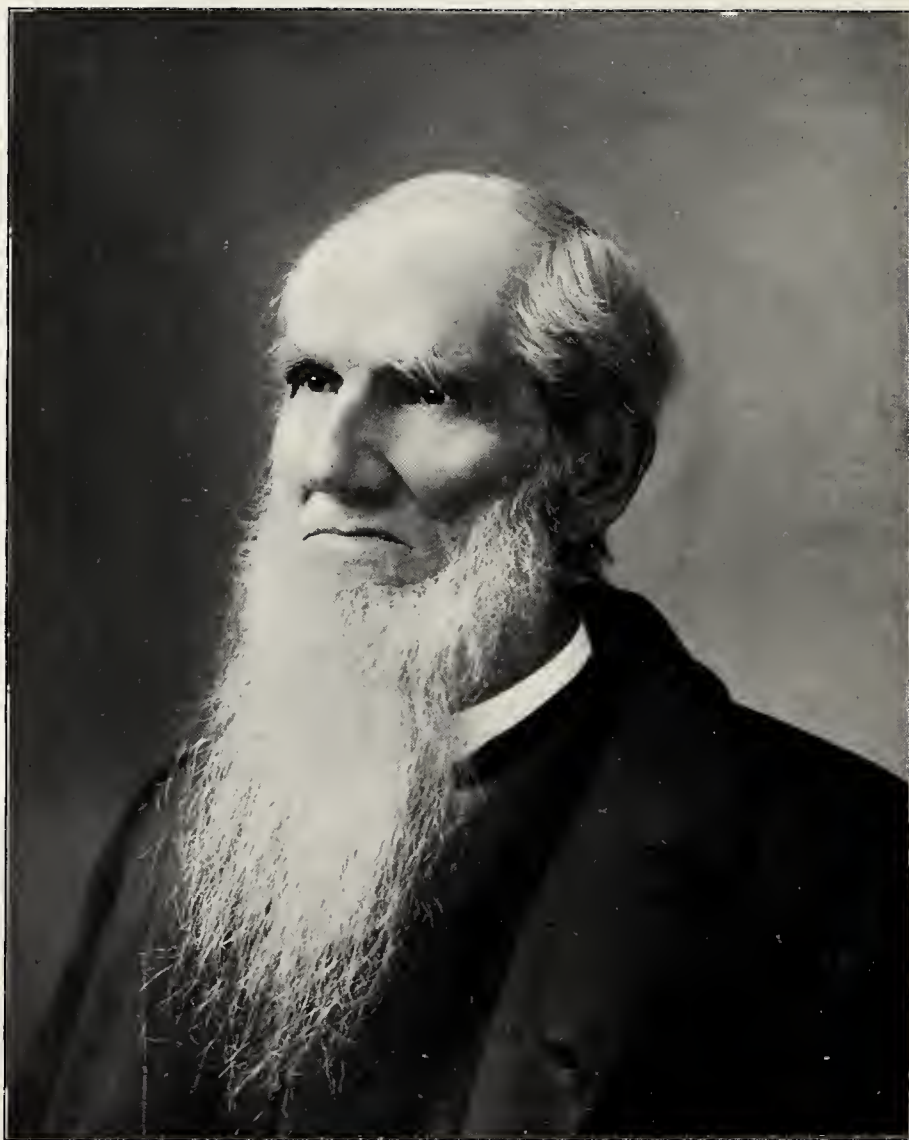
iment Infantry, where he served for two years and became a non-commissioned officer. In 1854 he left Bremen on a sailing vessel that reached New York City after a voyage of six weeks, and from there he proceeded to Cincinnati, Ohio, joining his brother Christ. From that time until 1860 he was employed on an omnibus line in that city. He then came to Illinois, and has since been identified with the history of Will County, as farmer, business man and official.

The first marriage of Mr. Wilke united him with Miss Mary Nuenker, whom he had known in childhood. She died at twenty-four years of age. Two children were born of that union, both now deceased, Henry having died in childhood in Cincinnati, while Lizzie, Mrs. Scheiwe, died in 1890, leaving three children, two of whom survive. The second wife of Mr. Wilke was Christina Brutlag, who was born in Westphalia. The only child of this union, Herman F., is a member of the firm of Bidefeldt & Wilke, at Beecher, owners of a large lumber and coal business, and an agricultural implement store, and with their warehouses on the Chicago & Eastern Illinois road. Twice married, by his first wife he had a son, Frederick. His second wife was Sophie Meier, by whom he has eight children.

From 1862 to 1864 Mr. Wilke was assessor of Washington Township. Later he was collector. In 1870 he was elected supervisor without opposition and continued until 1884, when he resigned, but after a year and four months he was again elected without solicitation on his part.

From that time to the present he has continued in the office, which he has held for a longer period than any other supervisor in the entire state; and it may be added that, in all the time since 1870, he has had opposition only two times. He has been a member of various committees, and has worked in the interest of all public buildings that have been erected, being a member of the committees that built the court house, improved the poor farm, put up the residence on that farm, and remodeled the sheriff's residence and jail. In 1899 he was elected chairman of the board of supervisors, without opposition, and by virtue of this office he is also chairman of the board of review, the first board in the county under the new law. In 1888, on the Republican ticket, he was elected to the legislature, leading the ticket by three hundred majority. He was re-elected in 1890, and again in 1892 he received a large majority. In the various bills that were brought up before the legislature he took an active interest, favoring movements in the interests of his constituents and the public at large. As a committee member, his record was unexcelled for faithfulness and intelligence. After three terms of service he retired, refusing further nomination for the office. Since 1890 he has been school treasurer of Washington Township, and he handles and is responsible for the township's school fund of \$11,500. Religiously he is a Lutheran. He took an active part in the building of the Eagle Lake Church, being chairman of the building committee, and he still holds his membership with this congregation, of which for years he was the treasurer.





*Geo. H. Woodruff*



## GEORGE H. WOODRUFF.

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**G**EORGE H. WOODRUFF. In the annals of Will County no name is entitled to more lasting remembrance than that of Mr. Woodruff, who was one of its pioneers and is well known as its historian. A fluent writer, he put in permanent form, for the benefit of future generations, many incidents connected with the early history of the county and its brave pioneers. Among his works are "History of the Black Hawk War;" "Patriotism of Will County," a record of the men from here who took part in the war with the south; "Will County on the Pacific Slopes," which gave sketches of the men who went to California during the gold excitement of 1849-51; and "Woodruff's History of Will County."

The first home of the Woodruff family in America was in Connecticut, and later generations lived in New York. In the latter state Theor Woodruff was born and spent much of his life, engaging in business as a manufacturer of scythes and edged tools, but at an advanced age he came to this county, joining his son in Joliet, and remaining here until his death. His son, the subject of this sketch, was born in Clinton, N. Y., August 16, 1814, and was one of three children, of whom the other son died in boyhood, and the daughter, Adele, wife of M. H. Demmond, died in New York. George H. was educated in Hamilton College, at Clinton, from which he graduated at eighteen years. In the summer of 1834 he came to Joliet with his brother-in-law, Mr. Demmond, for whom he clerked in the general mercantile business. Prior to 1840 he established the Pioneer drug store on Bluff, between Exchange street and Western avenue, and afterward

for many years had his place of business at the corner of Bluff and Exchange, continuing there until his death. He was the first circuit clerk and recorder of the county, and also held the office of county judge at one time. He assisted in the organization of the First Presbyterian Church and long held office as its treasurer. A staunch believer in Republican principles, he voted with that party after its organization. After having been in poor health for three years he died November 1, 1890, fifty-six years after his arrival in the then frontier town of Joliet.

The first wife of Mr. Woodruff, Hannah (Lucas) Woodruff, was born in New York and died in Joliet, leaving a son, Henry Theor Woodruff, and two daughters, Annie Mary, a teacher in Marion, Ala., and Julia H., a teacher in the Joliet high school. The son graduated in medicine in Chicago and is now practicing his profession in Harvard, Ill. During the Civil war he was surgeon of the One Hundredth Illinois Infantry and remained at the front until the close of the war, with the exception of the time when he was imprisoned in Libby. Mr. Woodruff's last marriage united him, in Joliet, in 1857, with Mrs. Achsah (Wheeler) Perkins, who was born in Berkshire, Mass., and died in Joliet. Her father, Harry Wheeler, a native of Massachusetts, served in the war of 1812. Late in life he moved west to Illinois and established a lumber and nursery business in Aurora, from which city he came to Joliet, and died here at the age of ninety-two. His father, Benjamin Wheeler, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war and a member of the Massachusetts legislature; the latter's wife bore the maiden name of Achsah Johnson. The

mother of Mrs. Woodruff was Clarissa, daughter of Elisha and Alice (Freeman) Harman, the former of whom was a native of Berkshire County, Mass., and a lifelong resident there. Mrs. Woodruff was one of three children, having two brothers: Henry, who died in Aurora; and Mark H., who served in a Connecticut regiment during the Civil war until he was killed in the storming of Port Hudson. When a girl Mrs. Woodruff was a student at Mount Holyoke Seminary, graduating in 1848. Soon afterward she became the wife of Dr. John P. Perkins, a graduate of the Albany Medical College. They came to Joliet in 1856, and the doctor died in this city while still a young man. Afterward Mrs. Perkins was married to Mr. Woodruff, by whom she had two sons, namely: George F., who is a chemist in Chicago and makes his home in West Grossdale; and Harry Wheeler, whose sketch follows this.

We cannot more appropriately close this memoir than with the presentation of "Israel's Prayer," by Mr. Woodruff, as it appears in "Bitter Sweet:"

Our father's God! To Thee we come once more,  
With united voice and heart, to offer  
Thanks and prayer. Thanks for the past, whether  
Of good, or seeming ill. Thanks that we meet  
Once more beneath the old roof! Our Father!  
Forgive our sin, for sin is ours, we dare  
Not lay it at Thy door! Our Father, give  
Us humility! May we not presume  
To comprehend Thee or Thy way so full  
Of mystery! We only ask light enough  
To guide us to Thee! We ask strength that  
May overcome our weakness and resist  
Temptation, and strong grow in virtue.  
Give us faith! Faith in Thyself and in Thy  
Wisdom, power and love and holiness,  
And in Thy purposes of good to man.  
Father, in Thy Son, and in His sacrifice;  
Father in heaven and in joy eternal  
In store for all who Thy dear Son accept.  
Give us love! Love supreme and reverent  
To Thyself!—to each other tender and  
Patient, and to the world, outside Thy fold,  
Pitiful and helpful.

And now once more  
We lie down to sleep, safe under Thy wing.  
May we wake rested and with thankful heart!  
And when we take our last deep sleep may we wake  
In heaven! We ask all in Christ's dear name. Amen!

**H**ARRY W. WOODRUFF, M. D. There is no branch of the medical science requiring greater skill or more thorough knowledge of its intricacies than that which relates to diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. In an intimate knowledge of these specialties Dr. Woodruff has few equals among physicians of his own age and few superiors even among those of greater experience than his own. He has confined his practice exclusively to the treatment of these diseases, believing that in the present development of therapeutics he is most successful who devotes himself exclusively to one of its departments. Since 1893 he has engaged in practice in Joliet, where he has his office in the Auditorium. During all of this time he has also acted as surgeon to the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary in Chicago. In 1897 he was appointed a professor in the Chicago Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat College, and has since filled one of the important chairs in that institution, for this purpose making bi-weekly trips to Chicago.

In Joliet, where he was born February 18, 1868, Dr. Woodruff grew to manhood, attending the public schools and graduating from the high school in 1886. His home was one of culture, and from his earliest recollections he had the advantage of refined surroundings, his father, George H. Woodruff, being a man of literary tastes, while his mother was also well educated and cultured. At an early age he began to assist his father in the drug business and in this way first became interested in the medical profession. Desiring to gain a complete knowledge both of pharmacy and medicine, he studied both under competent instructors, graduating from the Chicago College of Pharmacy in 1889, with the degree of Ph. G., and from the Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1892, with the degree of M. D. In a competitive examination he was appointed resident surgeon to the Illinois Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, where he remained for one year, but has continued to be connected with the institution as a surgeon up to the present time. Every matter of vital interest to his profession receives his consideration. He has been a contributor to medical journals, his arti-



cles usually bearing upon some theme that is connected with his specialties. He is a member of the Chicago Ophthalmological Association, and is also connected with the American, Illinois State and Will County Medical Societies, the last-named of which has honored him by election to its presidency.

The marriage of Dr. Woodruff, in Deerfield, N. Y., united him with Miss Jennie Coventry, who was born in La Salle County, Ill., and received her education in Utica, N. Y., and the Houghton Seminary at Clinton, N. Y. The two sons born of their marriage are George H. and Robert C., who are namesakes of their grandfathers. The family attend the First Presbyterian Church, with which the doctor has been identified from boyhood.

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**R**OYAL E. BARBER, a resident of this county since 1832, represents the seventh generation of his branch of the Barber family in America, the first of his ancestors in this country being Matthew, who in 1634 came from England to Connecticut. From Connecticut Daniel Barber, with others, removed to Benson, Rutland County, Vt., about 1780, and there followed farm pursuits. His son, John, father of Royal E., was born in Benson in 1796, and during the war of 1812 was one of the volunteers who marched to Plattsburg to defend that city against the British; however, his company did not reach the place until after the battle had been fought. Later he served as captain of the military company in his native town. He married Emma Perry, who was born of English descent in Orwell, Rutland County, Vt., and was a cousin of Commodore Oliver H. Perry. They became the parents of six children who attained maturity, three of whom are now living.

In 1831 a party of men from Rutland County came west and the reports they sent back were so encouraging that John Barber decided to seek a home in Illinois. In the fall of 1832, accompanied by his family and others, he started on the

long journey, traveling by packet from Whitehall to Buffalo, which took a week. From there the steamer "Henry Clay" took them in two days to Detroit, where they boarded the schooner "Austerlitz" for Chicago, arriving a week later. The schooner anchored three miles from land, owing to a sand bar that rendered further progress impossible. Passengers and freight were taken ashore in boats, which, being small, stuck to the sand bars, but were pushed out by the sailors. The passengers landed in the Chicago River, at the foot of Wabash avenue. At that time Fort Dearborn was enclosed by a few stockades. The only frame building in the place had been built by J. H. Kinzie, of lumber which he hauled from Walker's Grove (now Plainfield, this county). Mr. Barber was offered by a real-estate agent a lot on Lake street, 85x200, for \$50, but ridiculed the idea of "sinking \$50 in a mud hole." Getting a team, which forded the South branch of the river a little south of the junction of the branches, he proceeded to Naperville, where some acquaintances had settled. He selected farm land at what was later known as Barber's Corners, this county, and in February, 1833, moved his family into a log house. The surroundings were primitive. For many years oxen were used in ploughing. At that time the whole country was an open stretch of prairie, with the exception of a grove here and there and generally skirting a water stream. The only building in Joliet was a log house below what is now the corner of Exchange and Bluff streets. Through exposure in the cold winter, when engaged in getting out rails for his fences, Mr. Barber contracted rheumatism, from which he suffered almost constantly during his later years. His wife died May 1, 1874, and three years later he passed away.

Much of the work of developing and improving this part of Illinois had been witnessed by Mr. Barber. About three years after he came here the canal was first begun by the state. It was operated under contract for two years, when, the funds being exhausted, the work stopped. In 1845 the state succeeded in making a loan of a large sum in England and thereupon resumed

work, with some changes from the original plans. When the canal authorities were arranging the route of the canal they asked the proprietor of West Joliet to give them a certain block of land for their headquarters, and promised in return to give their influence to aid the then new town, but the proprietor refused. Upon that, they laid out what is now Lockport, which at first was a rival to Joliet, the authorities doing all in their power to foster their own town, which indeed for a time seemed to have the advantage; but when in 1852 the Rock Island Railroad entered Joliet, the town took on new life and in two years had left Lockport far in the rear. The canal was completed and opened in 1847.

Born in Benson, Vt., August 3, 1822, the subject of this sketch was ten years of age when he accompanied his parents on the toilsome journey to the west. In those days schools were few and consequently his advantages were meager. In the spring of 1833 he began to break prairie land, using five yoke of oxen. From the time he was sixteen he taught school in the winters and farmed in the summer months. However, he found farm work (which was then all done by hand) too hard upon him, and the recurrence of chills and fever at each harvest season led him to determine to seek another occupation. When he came to Joliet in 1845 he was the owner of an eighty-acre farm which his energy and industry had secured for him. For several years he was employed as deputy in the offices of the circuit and county clerk, then known as the county commissioner's court. Meantime he studied law and in 1847 he was admitted to the bar and began to practice in this circuit, which included all the territory from Iroquois to Winnebago Counties inclusive. Judge Henderson at that time presided over the circuit court, and was one of probably six or seven circuit judges in Illinois. Later, with the increase of population, the size of the circuits was lessened. He has continued in practice from that time to this and is now the oldest attorney of Joliet.

In 1848 a circuit clerk was elected who was a farmer and unfamiliar with legal business. At his request Mr. Barber took up the duties of dep-

uty, having practically the entire charge of the office for three years. In 1852 he was elected circuit clerk, filling the position for four years, during which time he originated and compiled a set of abstract books, giving the title to real estate in the county. Upon his retirement from the clerk's office he resumed practice and during the time of his clerkship had charge of the county records. More than ten years ago he became interested in a case relating to the distribution of property where one child remains at home during the long life of the parents and the others leave in early life to make their way independently in the world. It had been the practice that no distinction was made in the settlement of the property, all heirs receiving the same; but an instance of this kind came to practice, where a daughter remained with her parents, the other children leaving. When the father died at an advanced age the other children wanted an equal share of the property. All that saved the property to the daughter was the fact that the father stated, in the presence of neighbors, that he had given the homestead to this daughter. Mr. Barber brought a bill in equity, claiming the title to the homestead in return for the daughter's services; but, although he proved all the details in the bill, the judge followed established precedents and dismissed the bill. Mr. Barber then appealed to the supreme court, by whom the decision of the lower court was reversed, and the title given to the daughter. In this way a precedent was established that has since been followed.

Mr. Barber laid out several subdivisions of Joliet, and in 1887-88 erected the Barber building, which is still one of the finest office buildings in the city. It was the first structure that deviated from the ordinary old-fashioned style of architecture, with square buildings and plain walls, and it has since been a pattern for other private and public buildings. On the Citizens' ticket he was elected mayor of Joliet in 1876. For nine years he was a member of the school board, of which he served as clerk. He is connected with the State Bar Association. In Central Presbyterian Church he is a ruling elder, has served as a trustee and for many years was Sun-



day-school superintendent. In 1849 he and his wife began housekeeping in an old frame house, but later he erected a commodious stone residence that has since afforded the family a comfortable home. While he has been engrossed by professional work and his duties of citizenship, he has found leisure for recreation and travel. In 1896, accompanied by his wife and daughter Emma, he made a tour of Europe, Egypt, the Holy Land and Asia Minor, spending considerable time in Turkey, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, France and Great Britain, and after a trip of eight months returned home on the "Paris."

In Joliet, in 1849, Mr. Barber married Ellen Elizabeth Crowley, who died of cholera the next year. In 1854, in Rome, N. Y., he married Miss Frances Cornelia House, who was born in that city. They are the parents of four children now living. The eldest, Alice Stillman Barber, a graduate of Houghton Seminary, New York, was appointed a missionary of the Presbyterian board at Beirut, Syria, in 1885, and has since been successfully engaged in her chosen work in that place. Edward M., the older son, graduated from Hamilton College, in Clinton, N. Y., and is now in Utica, that state. William C., also a graduate of Hamilton College, has charge of the abstract of titles and other lines of business in Joliet. Emma F., a graduate of Houghton Seminary, is the wife of Dr. Beckwith, of Joliet.

and completed the course of study in that institution, from which he graduated in 1884, with the degree of A. B.

Returning to Joliet, Mr. Barber became interested in the abstract business, in which he has since engaged. On the 1st of January, 1889, he succeeded to the business which had been established by his father in June, 1857, and which antedates any similar enterprise by fourteen years, being the oldest office in the county. In the building erected by his father he has since had his office. At the same time he acts as agent for the Barber building. He superintended the construction and has charge of the electric light plant which furnishes light and power for this building, as well as some adjoining.

Perhaps Mr. Barber is best known through his connection with the liquidation of various loan and building associations. He was appointed liquidator of the Borrowers and Investors Building Association, the Second (formerly Peoria) Building and Loan Association, and the Waukegan Borrowers and Investors Building Association, all of Joliet, with assets aggregating \$300,000. This is the first instance on record where such affairs have been closed up in this way, and it is proving more economical for the shareholders than the method heretofore followed. The quarterly statements issued by the liquidator are models of accuracy, conciseness and clearness, and the manner in which he is conducting affairs is proving most satisfactory to those concerned.

Since 1887 Mr. Barber has been a member of the board of directors of the Joliet public library. From that time until 1896 he held the office of clerk of the board, but resigned the clerical position in the latter year. In the work of Central Presbyterian Church he has taken an active interest, and has served as trustee of the church and treasurer of the Sunday-school. He is a charter member of the Stone City Union Club, in whose activities he has been a potent factor. While he has never sought prominence in politics nor positions of responsibility in the gift of the people, he has always had strong opinions concerning public questions, and has actively supported the men and measures of the Republican party. He

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**W**ILLIAM C. BARBER, A. B. By reason of his ability as a financier, Mr. Barber has been brought into prominence among the business men of Joliet. He is one of the native born citizens of Joliet, a son of Royal E. Barber, who for so many years has been identified with the history of the city. Here he was born February 25, 1863, and in the public schools he laid the foundation of his education. After graduating from the high school in 1880, he matriculated in Hamilton College at Clinton, N. Y.,

was married in this city in 1889, his wife being Margaret A. Spangler, daughter of Ezra L. and Agnes M. (Love) Spangler. She was educated in Joliet and is a graduate of the high school. The two children born of their union are Ruth and Ralph.

STEPHEN GLIDDEN was one of the best known men in Channahon Township. When he came here in 1848 he was a young man with all the eager determination and enthusiasm of youth. The privations of pioneer life did not discourage him nor its hardships daunt; he worked his way steadily forward, leading a busy, useful existence, and by industry and frugality accumulating a valuable property. At the same time he gained the esteem of all acquaintances. He saw many changes during the long period of his residence in the same locality. Almost all of the heads of families who were his neighbors fifty years ago (for in those days people were called neighbors even though they lived many miles apart) have now passed to that land whence no traveler returns. His farm stands in the midst of a thriving and populous farming community that sprang into existence during the years he made his home here, replacing surroundings that had all the aspect of a wilderness just opening to civilization. On his farm of nine hundred acres is one of the imposing country dwellings of the township, a house built in 1878 and conveniently arranged and tastefully furnished. Here he spent the afternoon of his life in the enjoyment of the comforts his earlier labors made possible, and here he died January 4, 1900.

In Unity, Cheshire County, N. H., Mr. Glidden was born September 15, 1820, a son of Levi and Sarah (Glidden) Glidden. He and his sister, Margaret, the widow of Ransler Jenkins, of Maquoketa, Iowa, are the sole survivors of a family of eleven. His father, who was born and reared in Unity, removed from there to New York in 1821

and settled at Crown Point, Essex County, where he engaged in farming during the remainder of his life. His wife, who was a native of the same place as himself, had a brother, Thomas, who served in the war of 1812; shortly after the battle of Plattsburg, as the troops were returning home, he and some comrades stopped at an orchard to get some apples, for they had been on scant rations for weeks and were almost starved. The owner of the orchard, incensed at the act, shot him and wounded him severely. Levi Glidden's father was a Revolutionary soldier.

When fifteen years of age our subject went to Vermont to live with a brother-in-law, with the intention of remaining there until he attained his majority, but he soon became dissatisfied and made up his mind to settle in the west. It was, however, impossible for him to come to Illinois immediately. When he was nineteen he returned to Crown Point, where he continued until his father's death. September 3, 1848, he arrived in Joliet, bringing with him \$600 that he had saved. His first work was with a brother-in-law, who had a contract to rebuild a mill at Treat's Island, in Channahon Township. While working here he purchased the mill on which he was working, and for five years he operated it. In 1849 he returned to Crown Point for his betrothed wife. There, on the 5th of July, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Barnett, who was born in 1826, a daughter of Asa W. and Hannah (Lamson) Barnett. Her father was born in Hoosick, N. Y., and in early manhood removed to Crown Point, where he became a farmer.

After his marriage Mr. Glidden returned to Illinois, where he continued milling until the introduction of steam mills and the advent of the railroad made the business unprofitable. In 1853 he turned his attention to farming, having one hundred and eleven acres, which he had bought with the mill. He was prospered as a farmer and stock-raiser. He added to his possessions until he had fifteen hundred acres, but afterward he disposed of six hundred acres. From 1894 until his death he lived retired, the management of his place being in the hands of his son-in-law, Frank P. Bieth. In politics he



was a Republican, interested in party matters, but not caring for official positions himself. A man of earnest character, resolute in the support of what he believed to be right, he won the good will of his associates, and, as an honored pioneer, deserves not a little credit for the effective work he did in the advancement of the township. His wife died September 12, 1887, and of their eleven children only four are now living, one of whom, Permelia S., has had charge of the home since her mother's death. Sarah J. is the widow of Henry Haviland, a farmer of Channahon Township; Melissa is the wife of Frank P. Bieth; and Harvey O. lives in Kankakee, this state.

there. However, they finally left for Chicago, which was deemed a safer refuge, and their effects were mostly taken or destroyed before they could with safety return to Will County.

In September, 1831, Mr. Beggs married Elizabeth L. Heath, who was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, and died in Will County, April 7, 1866. His second marriage, December 30, 1868, united him with Mrs. Sarah R. (Dibble) Frost, a native of New York state. He had four children by his first marriage: Mary E., James W., George W. and Charles W.

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REV. STEPHEN R. BEGGS was born in Rockingham County, Va., in 1801. His father removed to Kentucky when the son was only four years of age, and two years later settled on the Ohio River in Clark County, Ind. His earliest recollections were therefore of frontier scenes. He was seven years old before he had a pair of shoes, and in after years he was wont to recall the delight experienced in the possession of his first shoes. In early manhood he entered the ministry of the Methodist Church, and afterward preached as an itinerant in Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. No salary was attached to his work. He was supported by the gratuitous contributions of his hearers, who, being poor in purse, could make but small contributions to his support. His entire receipts in cash one year amounted to only \$23.

In the summer of 1831 Mr. Beggs came to Plainfield, and was afterward connected with the history of Will County. In 1836 he was appointed to the Joliet circuit, and commenced the work of building the first Methodist church in Joliet, which was, in fact, the first edifice built by any denomination in the city. Upon the breaking out of the Sac war his house was considered the best adapted for a fort. It was accordingly fortified and all the settlers gathered

JAMES W. BEGGS, of Plainfield, was born at Troy Grove, near Ottawa, Ill., March 5, 1835. When he was a boy he attended the district schools, but these being very poor, the knowledge that he acquired was largely gained through observation and experience. When he became of age he embarked in the hotel business at Naperville, where he remained for seven years. He then returned to his father's farm one-half mile south of Plainfield, where he assumed the management of the place, devoting it to the raising of stock and of farm products. He spent three years on the farm but, preferring the hotel business, he came to Plainfield, and purchased the Central Hotel property, enlarging the building and conducting it in a manner that drew considerable trade. A man of genial and accommodating disposition, as a landlord he was very popular, and the traveling public made his place their headquarters. He also ran a stage line to Joliet, carrying mail prior to the building of the railroad. He continued to conduct the hotel until 1894, when he sold out the business and retired from active cares. His interests are large, and include town property which he rents, and a fine farm of one hundred and fifteen acres one mile south of Plainfield.

In politics Mr. Beggs is a Democrat, and has borne his share in the work for the party here. Both to county and state conventions he has

served as a delegate. He has served as a member of the board of aldermen, and in the spring of 1899 was elected mayor, a position that he has filled with signal ability and tact. Under President Cleveland he held the office of postmaster for two terms. His marriage united him with Emerette, daughter of Hilton Clary, and formerly of Palmyra, Wayne County, N. Y.

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**S**ELAH KNAPP, who is engaged in farming in Homer Township, was born in Albany, N. Y., in 1836, a son of Rev. Solomon and Maria (Lanfear) Knapp. His father, a native of New York, became a member of the Baptist Church in early life and afterward fitted himself for its ministry. He was ordained a preacher in the denomination and during the subsequent years of his life worked earnestly in his chosen field of labor. When he came west in 1840 he settled in Will County and purchased the land that forms our subject's present property. In addition to the superintendence of this farm, he gave considerable time to ministerial work and served as pastor of the Baptist Church of Hadley. His last days were passed in Joliet, where his death occurred in 1890, after a busy life that covered eighty-seven years. In his family were seven children, namely: Lanfear; Warren, who lives in Nebraska; Solomon; Selah; Lizzie, who married

John Cameron and lives in Omaha, Neb.; Josie, deceased; and Florence, wife of H. T. Stevens.

When the family came to Illinois Mr. Knapp was less than three years of age; hence practically his entire life has been passed on the farm where he now lives. He was given such advantages as neighboring schools afforded, and to these he added by self-culture, thus acquiring a good practical education. He is the owner of the old homestead of one hundred and twenty acres, on which he engages in the dairy and stock business and in the raising of cereals. The Republican party has received his active support ever since he attained his majority, and he is a firm believer in its principles. For thirteen years he held office as commissioner of highways, during which time he did much to promote the building and maintaining of good roads in his township. As a member of the county central committee of the Republican party and as a worker on its executive committee he has done much to advance the party's interests here. The cause of education has a firm friend in him. For twenty-one years he was a member of the school board, and during part of the time he served as president, also as secretary of the board.

The marriage of Mr. Knapp took place in 1860 and united him with Miss Emeline Frazier, daughter of William Frazier, and a native of Homer Township. They have an only daughter, Hattie F., who was educated in the Joliet high school and is now teaching in the Joliet schools. The family are connected with the Congregational Church and aid in its support.







*John C. Morgan*





*Elizabeth Bayer-*



## HON. CHARLES EDWARD BOYER.

HON. CHARLES EDWARD BOYER. In reflecting upon the advancement of the county of Will, men of thoughtful minds give due credit to the pioneers, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Boyer, of Lockport. Though many years have passed since the death of Mr. Boyer, his widow still survives, in the enjoyment of the competence which his energy accumulated, and surrounded by the evidences of an advancing civilization. When, as a child of seven years, she first saw the county where she has since resided, its settlers were few and widely scattered, its towns were mere hamlets and its farms wholly unimproved. Looking back over the long vista of years, she can narrate many an interesting story of those early times when hardships were many and the obstacles to success innumerable. In the prosperity of the present no one rejoices more than she. The finely improved farms of the county; the clanking of machinery; the humming of the saw; the shrill whistle of the locomotive and the long trains of freight and passenger cars that pass in every direction; the well-built schools; neat houses; handsome churches and fine business blocks, all proclaim this region to be the abode of peace and prosperity, in the securing of which the early settlers were a potent factor, and which, indeed, would not have been possible without their self-sacrificing and constant labors.

Mr. Boyer was born and reared in Reading, Berks County, Pa., and, as a young man, clerked in a store in Philadelphia. Coming west in 1836, he was employed in the Chicago office of the company that had charge of the building of the

Illinois and Michigan canal. For a time he had the supervision of their office work, but later took a contract on the canal, and in this way, in 1838, he was first induced to come to Will County. In the filling of his contracts he displayed so much efficiency and intelligence that his standing as a contractor was assured from that time forth, and he was thus enabled to gain a constantly increasing success. When the canal was being deepened he had a number of large contracts in connection with the same, and at the time of the building of the Chicago & Alton Railroad through the county he was one of its heaviest contractors. While his extensive business interests took much of his time, he did not allow them to prevent him from participating in public affairs. He was a staunch believer in Democratic principles and never lost an opportunity to promote the success of his party. His fellow-citizens, recognizing his fitness for public office, offered him the highest gifts within their power. In 1864 he represented the district in the state legislature, and at the time of his death, which occurred September 21, 1868, he was his party's candidate for the state senate. Successful in business, he left his family a large property, consisting principally of city real estate and farm lands. At the time of his death he had so much work planned for the future that it required two years for his widow to complete all of the contracts, and she successfully managed the same until they were filled.

The lady who became the wife of Mr. Boyer, at Lockport, April 14, 1840, bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Runyon and was born in Preble County, Ohio, February 22, 1823. Her

father, Armstead Runyon, was a native of Lexington, Ky., and at fourteen years of age accompanied his parents to Ohio, where he lived on a farm for a number of years. In 1827 he brought his family to Illinois and settled near Danville. From there, in the fall of 1830, he came to what was then Cook (now Will) County, and settled on a farm one and one-half miles from the present site of the city of Lockport, being one of the very earliest settlers in this vicinity. During the Black Hawk war he was obliged to take his family for protection to old Fort Dearborn, where they remained for several weeks; he and several others then returned to Will County and built a blockhouse on Mr. Sisson's farm, in which the families of the neighborhood lived for some time. While the men cultivated the land, the women remained in the blockhouse. From the building a good view could be had of the surrounding country, and when any Indians came in sight, the women would notify their husbands by raising a flag on a pole. During the building of the canal Mr. Runyon left his farm and opened a hotel in Lockport. In the fall of 1849 he went to California and purchased a large ranch on the Sacramento River, twenty miles from Sacramento, where he remained for twenty years extensively engaged in raising fruit. In 1869 he removed to Santa Rosa, Cal., but still continued to manage his farm. He died in that town when seventy-six years of age. Politically he was a Democrat, and in religion a Universalist. His father, Michael Runyon, a native of Kentucky, settled in Will County about 1834 and afterward made his home on Hickory Creek, where he died in 1857. His wife was a cousin of Robert Blackwell, one of the early and well-known Chicago attorneys.

Of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Boyer, William and Charles died in boyhood. The older daughter, Emma B., became the wife of David E. Corneau, of Chicago, and they have one son, Perry B. Corneau. The younger daughter, Florence B., Mrs. Olaus Paulson, resides with Mrs. Boyer, and has four children: Elizabeth B., Louise, Norman B. and Emma C. Paulson. The only son who attained manhood was Julius A., who operated a quarry in this county and died in

Lockport, at thirty-six years of age. He married Helen Cook (daughter of Isaac Cook), now Mrs. Robert Aull, of St. Louis, Mo. They had three children: Julius A., Charles E. (deceased) and Douglas C. Boyer. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Boyer has superintended the property and, in spite of her seventy-six years, she is quite active and business-like. In the beautiful residence built by Mr. Boyer in 1856 she has continued to reside, hospitably entertaining her friends and beloved by all who know her. As one of the oldest living settlers of the vicinity of Lockport she is entitled to the esteem in which she is held.

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**U**S. G. BLAKELY, editor and proprietor of the Plainfield *Enterprise*, was born in Morristown, Vt., May 9, 1868. He married Miss Linnwood Bartholomew, at Reading, Mich., September 25, 1887. In company with R. A. Marvin he established the *Enterprise* August 10, 1887, and in 1888 bought his partner's interest. He is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Masonic and Modern Woodmen fraternities.

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**G**EORGE B. MOSS, a farmer and stockman of Plainfield Township, has spent his entire life in the vicinity of his present home and has not only witnessed, but also contributed to, the advancement of local interests, especially to the development of the farming resources. He was born in this township on Christmas day of 1839. His father, William, a native of Northamptonshire, England, grew to manhood in that shire and learned the millwright's trade and the milling business. When about twenty-one years of age he came to the United States. After a short time in a mill in Buffalo, N. Y., he came west to Illinois, settling in Will County and se-



curing work in the building of the old Walker mill near Plainfield. On the completion of the mill he was placed in charge of it. Later he removed to Plainfield and helped to build a mill there, taking charge of it upon its completion. Failing health finally obliged him to seek an occupation affording outdoor exercise. In 1845 he bought eighty acres of prairie land, upon which he settled and to the improvement of which his subsequent years were devoted. As he prospered he added to his property until he owned two hundred and eighty acres, all well improved and cultivated. In politics he allied himself with the Republican party on its organization and afterward voted for its principles. For several years he held the office of school director. He was a very active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The doctrines of this denomination he upheld by his life, which was that of an honest, honorable man, and a good citizen, whose word was as good as his bond. Personally he was of a quiet disposition, with domestic tastes. He died on his home farm when seventy-eight years of age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Baxter, was born in Norfolk, England, and came to America in girlhood, settling in Rochester, N. Y., where she first met Mr. Moss. Like him, she was a faithful member of the Methodist Church. Her death occurred on the homestead when she was fifty years old. Of her six children George B. was the eldest; William is a farmer in this township; Mary A. is the wife of Emory D. Platts, of Plainfield; Mrs. Martha O'Leary lives in this township; Mrs. Philenda Thompson, a widow, lives in Colorado; and Oliver is engaged in railroading in Wyoming.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the schools of Plainfield. When he was twenty-one he started out for himself, renting a portion of his father's farm and afterward, when his father became too old to engage in manual labor, he succeeded to the management of the homestead. On his father's death he purchased a part of the farm and has since bought the interests of the other heirs, being now the sole owner of the old homestead. Under his management the place is kept improved and its buildings in good repair.

The Republican party receives his vote and he has been active in its rank. For a number of years he has served as school director and trustee. In 1862 he married Miss Harriet Platts, who was born in New York state and died in this township in 1891. The children born of their union are named as follows: Sherman, a farmer in this township; Lillie J., deceased; Minnie, wife of George Tower; Nellie, Mrs. Meyers, of Joliet; George A. and Cora, who are on the old homestead with their father.

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**T**HOMAS F. DEMPSEY, who has made his home in Troy Township since 1848, and for years has been one of the township's most successful farmers and stock-raisers, was born in County Kildare, Ireland, August 19, 1841, a son of John and Ellen (Shaughnassey) Dempsey. During the latter part of 1848 the family sailed from Ireland, in the good ship "Hottinger," and after a voyage of five weeks and three days, during which time they encountered two severe storms and were wrecked, they arrived in New York. From there they proceeded up the Hudson River to Albany, then crossed the state on the Erie canal to Buffalo, going from that city via the lakes to Chicago. While on Lake Michigan a heavy storm arose, in which their ship was wrecked and then towed into port at Milwaukee. From Chicago they came to Joliet on one of the first canal boats that made the trip to this point. Settling in this county the father took up a tract of land in Troy Township, which he bought at the land sale at Lockport in the spring of 1849. No improvements had been made on the land, and there was not a house between here and Joliet Mound. The family moved into a log cabin, in which openings had been made for doors and windows; these apertures they closed with blankets. All night the wolves howled near the little cabin, their cries being the only sound that broke the stillness of the lonely region. Growing bold, they caught and killed a fine dog of which the

family were proud; but, fortunately, their encroachments stopped on the outside of the house. Those early days were busy ones for the family, all of whom helped the father in his work of getting the land under cultivation and making needed improvements. He continued to reside on the same place until his death, in January, 1876, at the age of seventy-eight years. The mother died August 19, 1864, aged fifty-four years. She was the mother of seven children, viz.: Malachi, Thomas, John, Joseph, Mrs. Ann Ivans, Mrs. Bridget Riley, and David, of Des Moines, Iowa.

Owing to the need of his assistance on the home farm, it was not possible for our subject to attend school regularly, and he studied mostly at night, with the help of his father and mother. When twenty-eight years of age he went to Chicago, with only \$3 in cash, but with energy, determination and good health. He secured employment in butchering. Two months later he married. Economical and industrious, he was prospered and at the end of four years and seven months he had \$2,800 in cash. He then returned to the home farm, as his father, who was growing old, needed his aid. The work was not new to him, as from the age of thirteen years he had been actively at work on the homestead, mostly buying and selling cattle, although he also cultivated the land. When he returned he took hold as before and assumed the management of the one hundred and thirty-five acres in the place. Afterward he purchased other land and now has about four hundred acres, which represents his energy and ambitious efforts. He has always been a man of great energy and perseverance. Perhaps no term so well expresses his character as the word "hustler." He well deserves the prosperity he has gained. He is known as a thrifty, industrious and honest farmer, who manages his affairs in a systematic manner. In farm products his specialties are corn and oats, of which he annually sells three and four thousand bushels, respectively. On his place, among other farm implements, is a corn sheller with a capacity of over three thousand bushels daily, operated either by horse or steam power. He does the hauling to

Troy and Channahon for the two creameries, hauling from one to two thousand pounds a day. Cattle, horses and hogs are to be found on his place, his specialty being the breeding of Norman horses and good roadsters.

As his father, Mr. Dempsey supports Democratic principles. For fourteen years he served as justice of the peace, for two years held the office of supervisor, and was also school trustee for many years. He is a member of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Minooka. In October, 1869, he married Nora Kenney, whose father, Michael, was engaged in farming in Troy Township and later removed to Joliet. Mrs. Nora Dempsey died in 1884 and was interred in St. Patrick's cemetery in Joliet. The second marriage of Mr. Dempsey, in October, 1896, united him with Josephine Burns, of Chicago. By his first marriage he had ten children, of whom Lennie and Josie are deceased. Ervin and John reside in this county; Alice is the wife of John Cudahy, of Manhattan; Thomas, Jerome, Robert, Bernard and Edward assist their father at home and relieve him of much of the work of managing the farm.

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JOHN I. EVARTS, cashier and owner of the Plainfield Bank, was born in Yorkville, Kendall County, Ill., February 18, 1866. His father, Jeremiah, a native of Georgia, Vt., born in 1836, received his education in the academy of his home town. When twenty-one years of age he came west, which he believed offered greater opportunities for a young man than did his own state. He secured a position as teacher in Kendall County and his work was so satisfactory that he was soon given a more important place, becoming principal of the Plano school. At the outbreak of the war he resigned as principal and went to the front as lieutenant of a company of volunteers, serving for two years, when illness obliged him to resign his commission. His service was one that reflected credit



upon his loyalty to the country, as well as his personal bravery.. A year after his return he was elected clerk of Kendall County, and this office he held for twenty-four years, meantime making Yorkville his home. He was so prominent and influential that many desired him to become a candidate for congress and he therefore allowed his name to be presented before the Republican convention, where he came within four or five votes of receiving the nomination. In 1888 he moved to Plainfield and established the Plainfield Bank, which he conducted until his death, February 3, 1893. His success was entirely the result of his own industry and wise judgment. While his residence in Plainfield covered only a few years, yet he became well known, and took a leading part in enterprises calculated to advance the welfare of the people. Through his honorable methods of transacting business he gained the confidence of the community. In Yorkville, where for so long a time he made his home, he was a very influential citizen. For a quarter of a century he was connected with the Masonic blue lodge there and he also held membership with the Grand Army post there. His father, Tod Evarts, traced his ancestry to one of two brothers, surveyors, who assisted in surveying much of Vermont and in return were given by the government a large grant of land in that state. Hon. William M. Evarts, United States senator from New York, was a cousin of Jeremiah Evarts.

The marriage of Jeremiah Evarts united him with Emma Custin, who was born in Unionville, Ohio, and now makes her home with her only child. In religion she is of the Congregational belief. The subject of this sketch received his education in the Yorkville schools and the Aurora high school, supplemented by a course in the Illinois University at Champaign, where he was a student for two years. He was eighteen when he received an appointment in the United States railway mail service, and during the seven years he retained the position he had a run from Chicago to Burlington, on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, being on the fast mail train. He accompanied his father to Plainfield and en-

tered the bank in 1892. On the death of his father he and his mother were planning to sell the bank, when a petition was brought to him, signed by one hundred and fifty leading citizens of this section, asking him to continue the business. Feeling that, with so strong a support, he could not but succeed, he decided to continue, and the results have proved the decision was a wise one. He is a bright, capable young business man, and his business career, though yet but begun, is a credit to him. He is trusted and honored, and the confidence reposed in him has never been betrayed. Fraternally he is connected with the Woodmen, the Sons of Veterans, and Plainfield Lodge No. 536, A. F. & A. M., the chapter, commandery and council of the Masonic order at Joliet.

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THOMAS WHITE. Those who best knew Mr. White most fully appreciated his worth of character and his breadth of intelligence. His success in life indicates that he possessed business qualifications of a high order. Though he began without means, and had little to assist him in getting a start, he nevertheless became well-to-do, acquiring the ownership of valuable property both in this county and in Nebraska. At the time of his death he owned three hundred and twenty acres here and six hundred and forty acres in Nebraska, and he also owned a good home in Joliet.

Mr. White was born in Lincolnshire, England, September 23, 1830, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Veasey) White, natives respectively of England and Scotland. His father, who crossed the ocean to Canada, settled in the United States about 1850 and spent his last days with a son in Ohio, but died in Lake County, Ill., at sixty years of age. Of his ten children only one survives. The subject of this article learned the miller's trade in England and came to the United States in 1852, settling near Cleveland, Ohio. About 1855 he proceeded to Dupage County, Ill., where he began to till rented land. In 1863

he came to Will County and soon bought a farm in the town of Peotone, where he remained for four years. After residing in Naperville one year, he removed to a farm in Manhattan Township in 1869, buying two hundred and forty acres and at once beginning its improvement. A few years later he bought an eighty-acre tract adjoining. For seventeen years he made his home on that place, but in 1886 rented the farm and removed to Gage County, Neb., where he purchased a section of land and carried on farming and stock-raising on an extensive scale. In 1889 he retired from active labors, returned to this county and built a residence in Joliet, where his last days were spent.

In England, in July, 1851, Mr. White married Miss Kitty Reason, who survives him, making her home in Joliet. They became the parents of six children, but three are deceased. The older of the surviving sons, William, was born in DuPage County, Ill., in 1859, and grew to manhood in this county, but since 1882 he has resided in Nebraska. He is now proprietor of a general mercantile store at Table Rock, Neb., and is a leading business man of his town. He married Jennie, daughter of George Andrews, of Joliet, and they have three children: Leroy, Earl and Mildred. The other children of Mr. and Mrs. White are Fannie, who resides with her mother, and John Thomas, an attorney of Joliet.

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JOHN E. BUSH came to this county in 1860 and has been engaged as a grain dealer in Joliet since 1864. During the early days of his experience in the grain business, the farmers from a radius of twenty miles in this and surrounding counties brought him their grain, and, as he made his shipments by canal, he was able to pay two cents more than could those who shipped by railroad. His shipments, amounting to almost one-half million bushels per annum, were made in his own canal boats and in those hired from other parties. After a time the rail-

road, in order to gain the trade, began cutting rates and finally gave a better price that the canals could give, so the latter ceased to be a medium of transportation, and all shipments were made by rail. In 1871 Mr. Bush built an elevator on the Michigan Central road, corner of Washington street and Eastern avenue, at a cost of \$25,000, and containing good improvements, including steam power. This building still stands. In 1880 he built the River block, on Exchange street, which was three stories in height and 60x95 feet in dimensions. Water power was furnished from the canal. It was in this block that the Bates Machine Company started in business, and it was also used by other manufacturing companies. On Desplaines near Jefferson street he had an elevator which he used until it and the business block were condemned and removed by the drainage board in 1897.

The Bush family originated in Scotland and was later represented in the north of Ireland. Early identified with American history, several of its members took part in the Revolutionary war. Stephen Bush, a native of Connecticut, settled at Orwell, Vt., where he engaged in farming. During the war of 1812 he went to the front and fought for American interests. His son, Stephen N., who was born at Orwell, removed to Whitehall, Washington County, N. Y., where he owned and cultivated three hundred acres of land and also carried on a meat market. In 1862 he came to Illinois and bought a farm in Will County across the Washington street bridge, over Hickory Creek, a part of which land is now in Brooklyn. In later years he sold seventeen acres of his property for a fair ground, and afterward the remainder of the land was sold and subdivided into city lots. He then bought one hundred and sixty acres west of the city. He died in Joliet in 1885, when eighty-five years of age.

The wife of Stephen N. Bush bore the maiden name of Salome Morse and was born at Cornish Flats, N. H., being the daughter of a miller who died at Whitehall, N. Y. She died in 1858. Twice married, by her first husband she had two sons who settled in Will County, Ill., in 1856, both of whom volunteered in the One Hundredth



Illinois Infantry during the Civil war and served until the close of the rebellion. One of them, W. W. Bartlette, who was captain of his company, died in Salina, Kans., and the other, R. F., who was first lieutenant of the same company, is now living in Salina. To the marriage of Stephen N. and Salome Bush four sons and one daughter were born, two of whom are deceased. John E. is the oldest now living and the only one in Joliet. His brother, H. F., who served in the One Hundredth Illinois Infantry, is now engaged in the hardware business in Honolulu, Sandwich Island.

At Whitehall, N. Y., our subject was born November 5, 1835. He prepared for college in Whitehall Academy, and in 1856 entered Williams College at Williamstown, Mass., from which he graduated in 1860, with the degree of A. B. During the same year he came to Illinois and secured a clerkship in a Joliet grocery. Two years later, on the organization of the First National Bank, he became a stockholder and director and entered the bank in a clerical capacity. In 1864 he resigned his position in order to engage in the grain business, but he still retains his stock in the bank and has been one of its directors from the first. He owns property in Joliet and a farm in the county. In 1872 he laid out the Bush addition to Joliet, on Richards and Hickory streets, and in 1895 he made a subdivision of property on Jasper street. Bush Park originally belonged to him and is named in his honor.

The first wife of Mr. Bush was Cornelia, daughter of George Woodruff, late president of the First National Bank. She was born in Joliet and died here in 1876, leaving two children. The son, George Woodruff Bush, who was educated in the University of Michigan, is a member of the hardware firm of Bush & Handwerk, in Joliet. The daughter, Jennie C., who was educated at Vassar, has spent most of her time abroad since leaving college. The present wife of Mr. Bush was Bella G. Kenyon, who was born at Thompsonville, Conn., and accompanied her father, John Kenyon, to Illinois, settling on a farm at Tamarack, this county. For a time she was principal of the East avenue high school of Joliet.

Three sons were born of this marriage, namely: John K., who is a member of the class of 1900, University of Illinois; Edward M., a member of the high school class of 1900; and Ralph H.

At the time of the erection of the courthouse Mr. Bush served as assistant supervisor for two terms. He was also school inspector for two terms, and filled the position with the greatest efficiency. At one time he was a member of the board of trustees of the old Chicago University. In politics he is a staunch Republican. He is connected with the Williams College Alumni Association and the Delta Kappa Epsilon Society. For many years he has been chairman of the board of trustees in the Eastern Avenue Baptist Church and was an active member of the building committee at the time of the erection of the church. He also served for years as Sunday-school superintendent. In 1885 he was largely instrumental in starting a Sunday-school at Three Points mission in Joliet, and ever since then he has acted as its superintendent. He possesses qualities of a high order and is a gentleman of kind heart, sanguine temperament, whole-souled and liberal-minded, one who easily wins and retains the confidence of associates, and whose integrity has won for him the respect of his acquaintances.

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**P**HILIP I. CROMWELL, M. D., of Wilmington, one of the leading physicians and surgeons of the county, was born at Lake George, Warren County, N. Y., July 12, 1848, a son of James and Sarah C. (Bradshaw) Cromwell. He was named after his grandfather, Philip I. Cromwell, who for years made his home at Carlisle, N. Y., where he was proprietor of a hotel and a prominent man in public affairs. For years James Cromwell, M. D., carried on a general practice at Lake George, meantime gaining recognition as the most skillful physician in the town. In the latter town he died in 1874, when he was sixty-four years of age. Wherever he made his home it was his custom to identify himself with movements tending toward the ad-

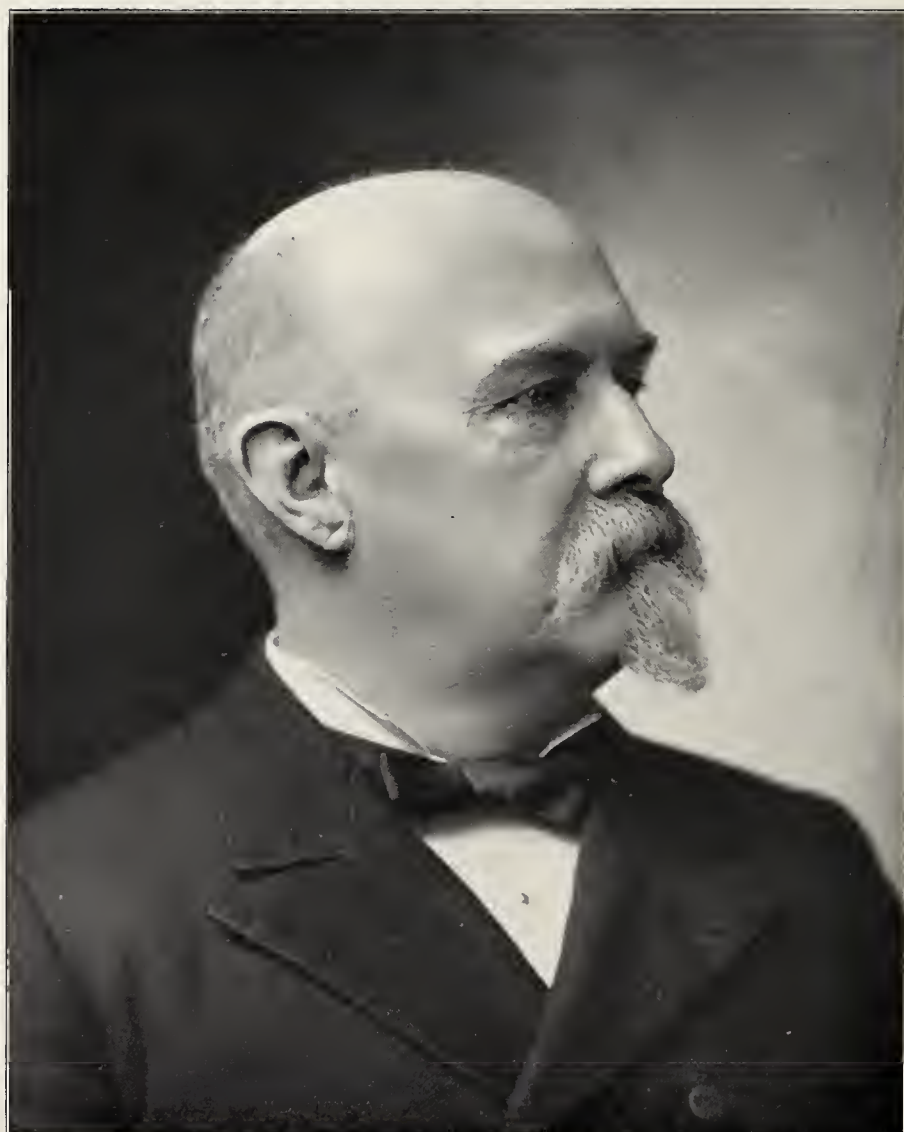
vancement of local interests. In religious belief he was an Episcopalian and for years served his church as an elder and senior warden. His wife survived him for years, dying at Lake George at the age of eighty-one. Their six children were as follows: Edward, who enlisted in the Civil war and was killed at the second battle of Bull Run; John B., of Denver, Colo.; Philip I.; James J., who is the only representative of the family now at Lake George; Mary E., wife of Jerome M. Hubbell; and Ellen B., who married Thomas N. Conant and lives at Dekalb, Ill.

The education of our subject was received principally at Glens Falls, N. Y. From an early age he manifested an interest in medical pursuits and as a boy determined that he would some day be a physician. With this object in view, in 1867 he entered Albany Medical College at Albany, N. Y., from which he graduated in 1870. During the following year he held a position as physician to the Albany city dispensary. Afterward he joined his parents at Lake George. After about one year he located at Cleveland, N. Y., where he established himself in practice. It was his belief, however, that he could succeed better in the west, and he therefore decided to come to Illinois. In 1874 he opened an office at Dekalb, Ill., where he remained for fourteen years, but the demands of his constantly increasing practice finally undermined his constitution and a complete change of climate was rendered necessary. In 1887 he went to Colorado, hoping that the genial air of the mountain regions would prove

health-restoring. In this hope he was not disappointed. During the two years he remained in that state he engaged in practice at Sterling and also served as coroner of Logan County. On his return to Illinois in 1889 he settled at Wilmington, where he has since built up a very large practice. It has always been his aim to keep abreast with the developments made in the science of medicine, and to this end he reads current medical literature and keeps in touch with various medical societies. He is a member of the Desplaines Valley Medical Association and the Illinois State Medical Society.

Always believing in protection of home industries, Dr. Cromwell naturally found himself in accord with Republican principles. However, in 1896, when his party declared for a gold standard, he, being in sympathy with the movement looking to the free coinage of silver, allied himself with the silver forces. Both as mayor and as alderman he has been active in advancing the welfare of Wilmington and promoting its interests. He is interested in secret society work and is connected with the Masons and Odd Fellows. His first wife, who was Catherine Hallagan, and whom he married in 1874, died in 1891, leaving four children, namely: Edward G., a physician and surgeon at Henry, Ill.; Harry D.; Clinton B., who is teaching school at Custer Park, this county; and George B., who is in the United States navy. The present wife of Dr. Cromwell bore the maiden name of Adeline Hudson and was united with him in marriage in 1898.





*Horrauce Libell.*



## HON. DORRANCE DIBELL.

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**H**ON. DORRANCE DIBELL is directly descended from the families of Baldwin, Lord, King, Ward, Strong and Waite, who lived in Connecticut and Massachusetts prior to 1800. His Puritan descent is evident from the maiden names of his grandmother and great-grandmother, Patience Baldwin and Submit Lord, and is also shown by the following given names found on his family tree between the years 1650 and 1750, viz.: Desire, Unity, Relief, Prudence, Thankful, Deliverance, Increase, Experience, Silence, Record, Remember, Mercy, Hopestill and Mindwell.

On his father's side he is fifth in descent from John Dibell, who was born in Connecticut in 1702, and who died at Mount Washington, Mass., August 1, 1773. The ancestors of John Dibell are believed to have come to Massachusetts from England in the year 1635. They afterwards removed to Connecticut. In 1757 the family settled at Mount Washington, in the southwest corner of Massachusetts, and members of the family still live upon and own part of the farm then bought. The branch from which Dorrance Dibell descended removed to Hudson, N. Y., and then to New Durham, N. Y., about 1789, and from there about 1817 removed to Ashtabula County, Ohio, where members of the family still reside.

On his mother's side he is the eighth in descent from William Ward, who in 1639 (nineteen years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock) was living with his family at Sudbury, Mass., when the proprietors of that plantation made a first division of their lands in which he shared. Tradition says he was born in England. He afterwards removed to Marlborough. He suffered great losses in King Phillip's war, when his buildings were fired, his cattle destroyed

and one of his sons was killed. The dwelling house of one of his sons was used as a garrison in that war. The widow of William Ward settled his estate at Boston before the tyrannical colonial Governor Andros, who also acted as judge of probate. Gen. Artemus Ward of Boston, another distant relative, was commander-in-chief of the forces of the colony of Massachusetts Bay, and was the first person appointed a major-general in the army of the Revolution; was appointed a member of the continental congress, but did not take his seat, and was twice a member of congress under the Federal Constitution. Several of Mr. Dibell's kinsmen of the Ward name were members of the "General Court," and held other places of trust in their primitive communities. One uncle, William Ward, D. D., spent most of his active life in Assam, India, as a missionary. A great uncle, Elihu W. Baldwin, D. D., was first president of Wabash (Ind.) College.

Dorrance Dibell was born February 16, 1844, at Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio. He is a son of Rev. Jonathan Baldwin Dibell, of Kingsville, Ashtabula County, Ohio, and Louisa (Ward) Dibell, of Ellington, Tolland County, Conn. His father was a Baptist minister. In 1850 his parents removed from Ohio to Will County, Ill., where they lived almost continuously until his father's death, September 10, 1881. His father had unusual purity, sincerity and strength of character, was greatly respected and had a wide influence in Will County, especially in Homer, New Lenox and Frankfort. After his death, the mother, with her daughter, Julia Louisa, made her home with her son Dorrance in Joliet, where she resided until her death, October 17, 1885. Julia met a sad and untimely death at a railroad

crossing in that city, September 20, 1889, which left the subject of this sketch the only remaining member of his father's family. Mr. Dibell married Sarah M., oldest child of Hon. Henry Snapp, at Joliet, August 29, 1872, and they have one child, Charles Dorrance Dibell, a graduate of the University of Chicago, who was admitted to practice law in June, 1899, and has entered upon the practice of that profession at Joliet.

Judge Dibell, as he is now familiarly called, was but six years old when his parents settled in the Prairie state, and he grew to manhood on his father's farm in New Lenox Township, attending the public schools in boyhood, and subsequently prosecuting his studies in the University of Chicago for about four years. After beginning his studies at the university he was a teacher in the public schools, then returned to the university, and afterward was employed as a telegraph operator at Racine, Wis., and at Wheatland and De Witt, Iowa. During that time he studied law without an instructor in Racine and on his father's farm in Will County. While still engaged as a telegraph operator he studied law with Hon. John C. Polley, at De Witt, Iowa, and then, having determined to make that profession his business in life, he abandoned telegraph operating, came to Joliet, and resumed the study of law with Goodspeed, Snapp & Knox, of Joliet. In 1869 he entered the law office of Parks & Hill as a law student and clerk at a small salary, barely sufficient, with rigid economy, to supply the necessities of life. The room on Bluff street, at \$3.00 a month, where he did his own house-keeping, as well as the grocery and bakery which supplied his frugal meals, are still remembered by the judge and his friends with a feeling akin to pride and pleasure. August 23, 1870, he was admitted to the bar by the supreme court of this state. During this brief period of his novitiate as a student with the firm of Parks & Hill he made himself so useful to the members of that firm, and gave such promise of future usefulness and ability as a lawyer, that he was at once offered a partnership with the junior member of the firm, which he accepted. Mr. Hill was then state's attorney of the old seventh judicial cir-

cuit, comprising the counties of Will and Grundy. The new firm of Hill & Dibell was organized September 3, 1870, and continued without interruption, and with a constantly increasing business and reputation, for a period of more than fifteen years and until dissolved November 13, 1885, because of the election of Mr. Dibell November 3, 1885, to the bench as judge of the ninth judicial circuit. During that time the firm enjoyed a large practice, constantly increasing in character and importance as the years went by, both members holding high positions at the bar. During these years of active practice, the foundations of Judge Dibell's career and usefulness as a judge were laid. He was never content to look at one side, his client's side, of a case or question presented for his consideration, however plausible or fair that side might at first appear; his mind was eminently and normally judicial in tone and character. Instinctively it turned to the other side of the question or case in hand and sought unrestingly to find the real facts of the case and the law applicable to those facts. This tone and bent of his mind was always manifest in consultations with clients and in the discussion of the case or question involved with his partner, as well as in argument in courts. When sure he was right, his conclusions of law and fact were presented with convincing force and ability. He always had a great faculty of generalizing a mass of details and of seeing the real point involved in a case. This was especially true, or seemed especially true, in chancery cases, involving many questions of law and fact. His strong memory, great reasoning powers and strength of mind, seemed to guide him with apparent ease through the most involved controversies. This characteristic soon became known to bench and bar, as well as to his friends and clients, and to some extent to the public at large. During this time Mr. Dibell was also for some years a member of the city council of Joliet, carrying to that work the same fidelity of trust and earnestness of purpose that had characterized him as a lawyer. He was in the council when the change was made from the old special charter to incorporation under the general incorporation law of the state,



and was influential in making that and other changes of importance in the city government, and it is safe to say that from first to last during his service in the council the public good was his first consideration. No suggestion of corruption or even of unfairness was ever made against him either as a lawyer, a councilman, or as a judge. This is high praise, but nevertheless strictly true. A lifelong Republican, thoroughly schooled in the platforms and principles of that party, he was nevertheless first and always a patriot, commanding alike the respect of his opponents and the admiration of his friends; and when, in 1885, the death of Judge McRoberts created a vacancy on the bench of the ninth judicial circuit, then comprising the counties of Will, Grundy, La Salle and Bureau, many eyes were turned to Mr. Dibell to fill the place. His partner, Mr. Hill, realizing from long association his peculiar fitness for the position, was among the first to suggest it, and to urge it upon him, but Judge Dibell is as modest as he is strong and judicial, and being at that time comparatively a young man, at first declined to consider it. A convention was called, and he was nominated for the position and was elected.

In the Will County convention, upon being nominated for circuit judge, he said, "I believe in progress in the methods of legal procedure. In fact, a reform in this direction has already begun. When I came to Joliet to study law I was told that the common law docket had not been called through in twelve years, and there were then upon the docket many cases which had been pending twelve or fifteen years. Since then much has been done to remedy this evil and to facilitate the transaction of legal business, but much remains to be done before our legal tribunals fulfill all the people have a right to demand of them. Courts are but public agencies for the transaction of business; they are tribunals appointed to settle business disputes; they ought to be conducted in a business manner and so as to secure his rights to the party who ought to win before time has made even success unprofitable. If the selection you have made shall be ratified by the convention at Morris, and at the

polls in November, I assure you I shall do all in my power to increase the efficiency of the court in which I may preside and to cause business to be there prosecuted with celerity and dispatch and in a business-like manner." This promise has been faithfully kept. Promptly to the minute court opens and business proceeds "with celerity and dispatch." No unnecessary delays or unseemly wranglings are tolerated. Attorneys and litigants understand what is expected and the wheels move unceasingly and almost without a jar. The trials calendars, law, chancery and criminal, are kept under constant control. Litigated cases are tried and disposed of within a few months after their commencement. Lawyers as well as litigants have learned to appreciate this kind of work and to feel even when beaten that they have had their day in court. The court room where Judge Dibell presides is a great workshop. The scenes are constantly shifting and passing. Cases come and go until both mind and body are weary with the work, but when court closes the judge's work does not end. Questions of law, cases submitted without a jury, chancery cases and other pending matters occupy his evening and morning hours. The judge is a rapid writer as well as a great worker. As a telegraph operator he learned to abbreviate words so that his pen follows closely upon his rapidly working mind. Cases submitted receive his careful consideration and often, in disposing of them, he sheds new light upon questions carefully argued by able attorneys.

In 1891 Judge Dibell was re-elected by a largely increased majority. In the winter of 1897 the legislature re-arranged the circuits, and placed Will, Kankakee and Iroquois Counties in the twelfth judicial circuit. That spring Judge Dibell was nominated as one of the judges of that circuit by both political parties, and in June, 1897, he was elected by a practically unanimous vote. A few days after that election he was assigned by the supreme court of the state to sit as one of the justices of the appellate court, second district, at Ottawa, Ill., for a term of three years, and is now serving upon that assignment. The duties of that position occupy about eight months

of each year. The rest of the time he gives to the duties of circuit judge.

Socially the judge is one of the most companionable of men. His extensive reading, great memory, keen interest in current topics, coupled with a rare gift of expression, combine to make an hour spent in his company an occasion to be remembered. His habits and tastes are, however, retiring, and his every-day friends and acquaintances best appreciate his social qualities. Rev. A. H. Laing, of Joliet, who has known the Judge intimately for over seventeen years, and who is himself widely known as a critic and scholar, writes of him: "Judge Dibell is a large brained, broad minded, generous spirited man, who commands the affectionate esteem and confidence of all who know him. Like most students he is not in any sense a society man, but his equable temper and amiable disposition have made him a prime favorite with his neighbors and friends. The exacting demands and large requirements of his profession have not dulled his taste for general literature. He has gathered a large and miscellaneous library not for ornament, but for his own use and enjoyment. The great poets and dramatists are represented there and the specialties of science, philosophy and political economy have not been neglected or overlooked. Even theology is not neglected, as is too frequently the case among lawyers. In short, to legal training he adds a cultivated taste and a large store of general information." But from this it must not be gathered that the judge is in any sense a recluse or indifferent to social duties or obligations. He is often seen in public, where his warm-heartedness and great conversational powers make him ever welcome. But it is at home, among his friends and books, that he is seen at his best.

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**M**AJ. JOHN M. THOMPSON, who resides in New Lenox Township, near the Joliet line, was born near St. Thomas, twenty miles from London, Canada, in 1832.

His father, James, a native of Salem, Mass., born in 1787, became a machinist in early life and at the age of twenty-five was made superintendent of a large cotton factory in Massachusetts. About 1820 he removed to Canada and settled on the Twenty, a large stream, where he built and began the carding of wool and manufacturing of woolen cloth. Ten years later he removed to the vicinity of St. Thomas and bought a large tract of land, where he engaged in farming, besides building and operating a saw and grist mill and also a woolen factory on Beaver Creek. After the Canadian rebellion of 1837 he left his family on the homestead and went west to look up a new location. He finally selected a site for water power in Roscoe, Winnebago County, Ill. There he built a woolen factory and a few years later a grist mill. On the completion of this work he returned to Canada and brought his family to his new western home. From 1840, the date of his settlement in Illinois, until his death in 1853, at the age of sixty-five years, he was engaged in the manufacturing of woolen goods and in merchandising. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Snure, was born in Pennsylvania and died in Illinois in 1886, aged eighty-three years. Of their ten children seven are still living.

The eldest of the family, Clark, deceased, was for several terms a member of the assembly and for two terms a state senator in Minnesota, also served as superintendent of Indian affairs during the massacre of 1863-64. He was also president of the Southern Minnesota Railroad. Edward, who was also a senator in Minnesota, was a merchant miller, owning mills at Hokah, Houston County, Minn. He is now living, retired, in California. Mary Catherine is the wife of J. W. Abbott, a dry-goods merchant of Beloit, Wis. Eliza died in 1871. John M. is the subject of this article. Agnes died soon after her graduation from the Rockford Female College in 1855; Anna is the wife of Major Wagner, of Tracy, Ill.; Marie married Seely Perry; James lives in Duluth, Minn.; Fannie is the wife of a physician in Lyons, France; and Albert died when two years old.

At the age of twenty-one our subject went to



Hokah, Houston County, Minn., and acted as superintendent of a saw and grist mill owned by his brothers, Clark and Edward, who were at that time giving their attention largely to public affairs. At the same time he read law. In 1869 he returned to Roscoe, Ill., to complete his law studies. The day after Fort Sumter was fired upon he started out to raise a company of volunteers and upon the completion of the work he tendered the services of the company to Governor Yates, but as several companies were tendered from his county and only one could be accepted, the choice fell upon a company raised by Stephen A. Hurlbert (afterward a major-general).

Immediately afterward, Mr. Thompson went to St. Paul, Minn., but his mind was so occupied by the national struggle that he could not apply himself to his law books nor could he concentrate his mind on business affairs; so he went to Fort Snelling and enlisted in Company K, Fourth Minnesota Infantry. Two weeks after his enlistment he was elected first lieutenant and later was selected as adjutant on Col. John B. Sanborn's staff. Late in 1862 he was unanimously elected and commissioned captain of Company E, Fourth Minnesota Infantry, and served at the head of the company in many hard-fought battles, including the siege of Corinth, Iuka, battle of Corinth and Champion Hills. On the battlefield of Iuka he served as acting major, in the absence of the major, and was favorably mentioned by his colonel for gallantry and recommended for promotion. In that battle, though in the thickest of the fight, he was not injured, though having many narrow escapes; at one time his hat band was shot off his hat. Shortly afterward Adjutant-General Thomas, of the United States army, while on a tour of inspection in the west, offered him the rank of colonel of a colored regiment, which he accepted, but requested that he might be permitted to remain with and command his company until after the siege of Vicksburg. The request was granted and he remained with his company.

At Champion Hills, May 16, 1863, Major Thompson was reported mortally wounded by a

gun shot through the left lung and was left on the field to die, as was supposed. In a few days all the wounded were removed for whose recovery the slightest hope was entertained, but as he had been given up, he with many others was left to fall into the hands of the Confederates. He was taken prisoner and the rebel surgeons also reported him mortally wounded; but, on account of his strong constitution and good habits, his wound did not prove fatal. After six months he was exchanged and ordered to report at the St. Louis barracks. From there he was sent to Fort Snelling, on the way visiting his mother at Roscoe, Ill. He remained at Fort Snelling and St. Paul until his marriage, which took place at Joliet, Ill., January 14, 1864. On the day he was made a Benedict he received a telegram announcing his promotion to be first major of the Second Minnesota Cavalry. With his regiment he took part in the Indian warfare of 1864, and in the fall of the same year was ordered to report to and take command of Fort Ripley, on the head waters of the Mississippi. Later he was transferred to St. Paul as president of court martial, where he remained until mustered out of service, May 5, 1865.

Coming to this county the same month, Major Thompson built what was at the time one of the finest residences in the county and probably the finest farm house in the state. In 1867, accompanied by his wife, he went to Europe and spent eight months, visiting Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland and the British Isles. On his return he gave his attention to the raising of high-grade horses and cattle. During the war he was a Republican, afterward became independent and during Cleveland's first term he supported the Democratic party, believing it to be more favorable to the farmer in its tariff platform. From 1887 to 1893 he was master of the state grange, during which time he traveled over the entire state, speaking in almost every county. He also traveled in the interest of the Grange in the United States, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He was a member of the thirty-ninth General Assembly. At the close of his term the Chicago *Herald* placed his name on a roll of honor with the

names of seventeen others, stating that every vote these gentlemen cast was in the interests of agriculture and labor. In 1897 the Democratic party nominated him to represent the twelfth district in congress, but he declined the nomination in the convention. However, in response to the appeal of the district committee and leading members of the party, he withdrew his resignation and reluctantly consented to represent the party during the fall campaign. Although he was not elected, yet he reduced the majorities formerly given his opponent, J. G. Cannon, of Danville, who had represented his district for twenty years.

The marriage of Major Thompson united him with Miss Mary Jane Davidson, daughter of Judge John J. Davidson, a pioneer of 1834. They have had four daughters and one son, viz.: Jennie Marie, John D., Helen E. (Mrs. Charles Fish), Agnes (deceased) and Vera.

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**J**OHNN FEIL, member of the board of supervisors, is a well-known merchant of Frankfort Station. He is a man of good business ability, enterprising and persevering, and by his well-directed efforts has won prosperity. Since he began in business, in the fall of 1880, he has enjoyed a steady growth in his trade and now has in his store a stock that, for size and quality, is not surpassed by any establishment for miles around. Three clerks assist him in attending to the wants of customers. By his reliability, courtesy and well-known integrity he has gained and held the patronage of people throughout his section of the county.

The entire life of Mr. Feil has been passed in this county. He was born April 20, 1854, in Greengarden Township, to which his father, John, had come two years before. The latter was born in Codweilen, Prussia, Germany, in 1822, and in 1847 accompanied his parents, George and Elizabeth (Scheer) Feil, to America, settling in Frankfort Township, this county, but

in 1852 removed to Greengarden Township, where he bought sixty acres of land and made his home for twelve years. In 1864 he moved a mile west, settling on section 8, where he devoted his remaining years to general farm pursuits. He was a successful farmer and owned two hundred and forty acres of land. Personally, he was quiet and reserved, but those who knew him well found him to be a man possessing many noble qualities of heart. At the time of his death, October 6, 1871, he was forty-nine years of age. His father, George, spent his life, after 1847, in this county, his closing years being passed in Mokena.

By the marriage of John Feil, Sr., to Catherine Klose, a native of Germany, thirteen children were born. The nine now living are as follows: John, of this sketch; Louis, who makes his home in Englewood, Chicago; Jacob, who occupies the old homestead; Charles C., who lives in Charles City, Iowa; Henry, of Joliet; Valentine, of Manhattan; Caroline, wife of Jacob Felton, of Huntington County, Ind.; Lizzie, who married Arnold Funstein, of Manhattan; and Lena, Mrs. Christian Hauck, of Joliet. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Greengarden Township. When he was twenty-five he moved to Frankfort Township, and entered upon the life of a farmer here. In 1880 he traded his farm for a stock of merchandise, and, with Charles Deist as a partner, began his present business. In the spring of 1893 he bought his partner's interest and has since carried on the business alone.

In politics Mr. Feil is a Republican. For fourteen years he has served as police magistrate of the village. During President McKinley's administration, in 1897, he received the appointment of postmaster at Frankfort Station. In 1898 he was elected supervisor for a term of two years. In this office, as in every position he has held, it has been his aim to advance the interests of the people and the welfare of the county. No laudable movement is allowed to fail for want of support on his part. Such citizens as he are a credit to the community. He is a member of the German Evangelical Church and in it served as a trustee for several years. Fraternally he is connected with the Court of Honor in his home



town. February 20, 1879, he was united in marriage with Miss Christina Deist, by whom he has had four children. Only two are now living. The son, Edward J., is a student in the Chicago Business College; the daughter, Esther E., is at home.

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**A**LBERT PHELPS. Notwithstanding the many years that have elapsed since the death of Mr. Phelps, he still lives in the memory of his acquaintances in this county and especially in the hearts of his former associates in Dupage Township. His life was not a long one as we count time, for it covered little more than twenty-six years; yet it was a busy and useful existence, passed in the quiet routine of farm work, and in the faithful discharge of every duty, as citizen, neighbor, friend, husband and father.

Mr. Phelps was born in Willsboro, Essex County, N. Y., December 12, 1846. He was reared upon a farm in that county and received his education in its common schools. When a young man, with the future stretching before him, full of opportunities and openings, he decided to come west, where the rewards of toil were greater than in the more thickly settled east. He had a sister living in Will County and joined her here. From that time until his death he was engaged in farm pursuits in Dupage Township. In connection with the raising of farm products he carried on a dairy business, which proved a profitable source of revenue. His attention was given closely to his chosen occupation. He did not take an active part in politics, although he never failed to vote the Democratic ticket. Fraternally he was connected with the blue lodge of Masonry in Naperville. He aided in the support of the Presbyterian Church, with the work of which he was in sympathy. When he died March 6, 1873, he was followed to his last resting place by his neighbors and friends, all of whom realized that in his death the township had lost one of its most honorable men and substantial farmers.

His wife and two sons survive Mr. Phelps. He was married, November 5, 1869, to Miss Harriet L., daughter of Thomas J. Sprague, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. She was born in this township December 8, 1850, and received her education in local schools and at Lockport. Among the people in whose midst her life has been passed she is honored and esteemed for her many worthy traits of character and for her devotion to her family. She is justly proud of her sons, both of whom are exceptionally capable young men. The older, Herbert Reuben, makes his home with his mother and has charge of the farm, maintaining an intelligent supervision of its interests. The younger, Albert C., graduated from the Illinois State University and afterward took a special course of study in Munich, Germany. He is now instructor in architecture at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

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**T**HE FRANCIS FAMILY. For years the representatives of this family have been inseparably associated with the growth of Will County. The first of the name to settle here was Abraham Francis, who was born in County Cavan, Ireland, September 29, 1808. He was a descendant of ancestors who, during the religious persecution of 1696, fled from Scotland to Ireland, where subsequent generations made their home. In 1816 William Francis, a farmer, emigrated from County Cavan and settled in Brown County, Ohio. He was a hardworking man, whose life and surroundings offered few opportunities for education or advancement. At the time of his death his son, Abraham, was a youth of fifteen years, and he afterward continued in Brown County for some years. In the spring of 1831 he and a young German left Ohio and rode on horseback to Shawnee Mound, Tippecanoe County, Ind. From there they walked, carrying knapsacks and axes, to Illinois, exploring the region around the headquarters of the Kankakee River. With canoes they had constructed,

they floated down the river to Wilmington, and then followed the Indian trail to New Lenox Township. Choosing a location, Mr. Francis entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land and "floated" another tract of similar size, comprising the north half of the east half of section nine, where his son, A. A. Francis, and his family afterwards resided.

After building a log cabin Mr. Francis returned to Ohio. There he married Miss Mary A. J. Davison, who was born in Adams County, that state, March 17, 1815, a daughter of William and Mary (Ingraham) Davison, both of whom died in Tippecanoe County, Ind. November 16, 1831, Mr. Francis and his bride arrived at their new home in Illinois. On that day snow began to fall and they did not see the bare ground again that winter, which will be recalled as the winter of the great snow so disastrous to pioneers. At one time, when Mrs. Francis was attending to her household duties, Rev. Stephen R. Beggs, the minister of the community, drove up to the cabin. When she met him at the door, he, judging from her youthful face that she was the daughter of the family, inquired where her father was. She answered that he was on the home farm back in Ohio. "Then," said he, "what are you doing here?" "I am keeping house for my husband and his brother Thomas," was her answer. Both Mr. Francis and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and in early days the Sunday meetings of the congregation were often held in his barn, which is still standing. It is probable that the first religious services in the borders of New Lenox Township were held in this building.

When the Black Hawk war broke out, in June, 1832, Mr. Francis was one of six men appointed to investigate the report of the Indian outrages on Fox River. Finding that the reports of the outrages were true, Mr. Francis removed his family to Shawnee Mound, Ind. He then re-

turned and served as second lieutenant under Captain Seissions. When hostilities ceased he resumed the cultivation of his farm. At the time of the cholera epidemic he was engaged in teaming for the government at Chicago. Prior to the division of Cook County and the separation of Will County, he served as deputy sheriff and held other offices of honor and trust. In politics he was for years a Democrat, but at the time of the Civil war became an adherent of the Republican party.

The family of Abraham and Mary Francis consisted of eleven children, eight of whom attained mature years and married. The eldest, Margaret L., wife of Needham P. Cooper, of New Lenox Township, is believed to have been the first white child born in this township. The eldest son, William D., died at the age of twenty-two years. Mary A. J. married J. S. Blackstone, of Kankakee. A. Allen, the second son, is represented in the following sketch. John, who was born January 8, 1843, is a prominent stock-raiser and dairyman of this township and for years held the office of supervisor; his biography is presented upon another page. Lydia E. is the wife of William S. Nichols, of this township. Charles is a farmer near the old homestead. Clara M. died when sixteen months old. Adalina A. married Jesse Meharry, of Tolono, Ill. George L. is a machinery merchant in New Lenox and also engages in agricultural pursuits near the old homestead. Carrie D. died at the age of thirteen years. One sister, two of the brothers, and the widow of the second brother, live nearly all on the same road, the sister occupying the center farm, while the others have places that adjoin. All are honored and respected in the locality and are recognized as people of superior worth and intelligence. The father of the family died at the old homestead November 28, 1862, and his wife passed away January 15, 1884.







*A. Allen Francis*

## A. ALLEN FRANCIS.

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**A** ALLEN FRANCIS. Intimately associated with the history of New Lenox Township throughout his entire life, Mr. Francis long held a conspicuous position among its stock-raisers and land-owners. For years before his death he was the owner of one of the finest stock farms in the county. Through the exercise of his remarkable business ability he became the owner of over one thousand acres of land, besides which he had other valuable interests. Nor was his success merely that of gaining ample means, but he was also successful in winning the confidence of his associates and the affectionate regard of his friends. As an instance of the esteem in which he was held, it may be mentioned that when, after having served as president of the Farmers' Institute since 1888, he expressed a desire to retire from the office in 1898, there was a unanimous demand for his continuance. When he finally consented, a demonstration was given him that will not soon be forgotten by those who were present. Perhaps greater enthusiasm was never shown for a citizen of Will County than was exhibited at that time.

On the farm where his entire life was spent Mr. Francis was born September 7, 1840, the oldest son of Abraham and Mary A. J. (Davison) Francis, natives respectively of County Cavan, Ireland, and Adams County, Ohio. He was educated in country schools and the Joliet high school. From an early age he was interested in the raising of cattle, in which he was uniformly successful. In New Lenox Township, September 15, 1870, he married Miss Lizzie J. Haven, who was born here March 31, 1849, and received her education in common schools and Dearborn Seminary, Chicago. She was a daughter of

Hon. Dwight Haven (see sketch on another page) and was the eldest of his family of five daughters and one son. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Francis were born five children, of whom two are living, namely: Mary L., wife of W. Foster Burns, an attorney in Chicago; and Daisy H. There was also an adopted daughter, Anna H., Mrs. Willis I. Doig, of Joliet, who was a member of the household from the age of four years.

When a young man Mr. Francis became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of New Lenox, of which he was a trustee; he also served as treasurer of the building committee at the time of the erection of the new church. For years he was superintendent and treasurer of the New Lenox Camp Meeting Association, the success of which was in a large measure due to his indefatigable efforts. Nor did his interest in this movement wane. Up to the last he labored for its welfare, and even after his fatal illness began he was on the camp meeting grounds to see that the work was progressing satisfactorily. He was a stockholder in the Will County National Bank and had moneyed interests in other local enterprises. In his business transactions he was systematic and exact; a man of the utmost probity, whose integrity was never questioned and whose character was above reproach. Ever guardful of the best interests of his township, he was one of its most progressive citizens, and as a Republican he took an active part in the political life of the community. At one time he was president and a director of the Agricultural and Mechanical Association of Will County and the New Lenox Fire Insurance Company. He was a firm friend of the public school system and served efficiently



as a school director of his district. All enterprises having for their object the good of the locality, or the increase of its material wealth, found in him an advocate and friend, and his township had no resident more closely identified with its progress than was he.

His strength as a leading Republican was shown at the Republican convention of 1898, when his friends, against his wishes, nominated him for state senator.

In addition to the many tributes of sympathy received by the family upon the death of Mr. Francis, the Will County Farmers' Institute passed the following resolutions unanimously:

"WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God to remove by death Hon. A. Allen Francis, our beloved friend and president, from our midst, and

"WHEREAS, In the various relations of life, as husband, father, brother, friend, officer, neighbor, citizen, he was devoted, affectionate, kind, true, efficient, sympathetic and public-spirited, each day living a noble and exemplary life; Therefore be it

"*Resolved*, By the Will County Farmers' Institute, in session assembled this eleventh day of January, A. D., 1900, fully realizing his good influence and in his death our great loss, we desire to bear testimony to his worth and offer this loving tribute of precious memory and respect. Be it also further

"*Resolved*, That we extend to his wife and family our heartfelt sympathy in their great bereavement, and would fain place by the side of theirs the kindred feeling of sympathy and of sorrow."

On every hand were heard expressions of regret at the loss of a citizen so progressive and noble. Such tributes as these were spoken by those who appreciated the worth of such a character: "He was the best farmer in Will County. He preached the necessity of keeping up the virginity of the soil. His whole life stood for better methods in agriculture." "No man has had a greater influence in Will County than A. Allen Francis." "Never was I in his presence but I felt the inspiration to do something good." "Men are drawn nearer to God when a good man dies."

MERRITT O. CAGWIN. During the colonial period of American history the Cagwin family came from Scotland to this country. Thomas Cagwin was the son of a Revolutionary soldier, served as an officer in the war of 1812, and married Eunice Joslyn, who was also of Scotch lineage. Born in Massachusetts, he removed from there to Oneida, N. Y., and later settled near Brockport, Monroe County, purchasing a farm of four hundred acres in and adjoining the village. From his land he platted a portion of the town. He continued to reside there until his death, which occurred at sixty years.

While the family lived in Oneida County, Abijah, son of Thomas Cagwin, was born, and he was reared there and in Monroe County, learning the trades of tanner and shoemaker. For a time he conducted a tannery at Brockport, but it burned down in 1834, entailing a total loss. Having no longer any interests in the east, he determined to seek a home in the new and growing west. Coming to Illinois in 1835, he bought a large tract of land just east of Joliet, on Hickory street, purchasing the same at the land sale in Chicago. He then returned east and bought the necessary equipments for a sawmill, which he shipped to Chicago and thence conveyed by wagon to Joliet. Building a sawmill, he began the manufacture of hardwood lumber, and on the 4th of July, 1836, surrounded by a crowd of patriotic citizens, who came more than twenty miles, he sawed the first board used in the building of one of the first frame houses in Joliet. As sawmills were scarce, he was successful in the work, and continued to manufacture lumber there for fifteen years.

Meantime Mr. Cagwin served eight years as justice of the peace. At the same time he bought real estate in Joliet, which he improved with residences and then sold. At the expiration of his term as justice he was elected county judge, filling the office for many years. In both cases he was endorsed and elected by both parties. Later he embarked in the grain and mercantile business on what is now North Chicago, near Cass street, his being the first business place



in that section of the city. For many years he continued in the grain trade, at the same time improving lands and farming. He laid out and named Cagwin and Scribner streets, the latter being named in honor of his wife. The property is still in the family and is handled by Munroe Brothers. He was an active factor in organizing the Will County Bank, of which he served as president until he disposed of his stock, Henry D. Higinbotham being vice-president, and Benjamin Richardson, cashier. Politically he was a Democrat, and fraternally a Knight Templar Mason. In the organization of the Universalist Church of Joliet he took an active part and continued to be one of its leading members during his remaining years. He died October 2, 1890, when eighty-two years of age.

The wife of Abijah Cagwin was Hannah Scribner, who was born in Poultney, Vt., a daughter of Deacon Peter Scribner, an Englishman by birth. On coming to America her father settled in New Hampshire, but later went to Vermont, where he engaged in farming and sheep-raising. When he was ninety-four years of age he was accidentally killed by a fall from a tree. His brother, Samuel, settled in New York City and founded Scribner's Magazine, long one of the standard periodicals of the country. Mrs. Cagwin died March 30, 1892, when eighty-four years of age. Of her eight children we note the following: Merritt O. is the eldest of the family; Mrs. Helen Harwood lives in Atlanta, Ga.; Mrs. Sarah Barrett makes her home in Joliet; Thomas P. lives in Milwaukee, Wis.; Hamden A., a grain merchant, and Nancy, both died in Joliet; Mrs. Rosa Briggs is living here; and Abijah, the youngest, who was a member of the Mississippi squadron, U. S. N., during the Civil war, is now in California.

The subject of this article was born in Brockport, N. Y., May 14, 1828, and was eight years of age when his father returned east, making the trip on an Indian pony, and then, with a team and wagon, brought the family to Illinois via Canada and Michigan, arriving in Joliet May 8, 1836, after a trip of one month. From the age of ten he assisted on the farm and in the mill.

When he was fifteen his father opened a store, in which he clerked during the next three years. He then went to Chicago, where he worked for an uncle, who was an auctioneer, and later traveled for two years. Meantime he purchased eighty acres of state land at a canal sale, and on this he began in the stock business. By the purchase of additional property he became the owner of about four hundred acres lying east of Joliet. The discovery of gold in California awakened in Mr. Cagwin's mind a determination to seek the far west. In 1851 he went to San Francisco via New York and the Nicaragua route, and taking his course up the American River engaged in mining. A year's experience, however, satisfied him with the life of a miner, and he returned home via Panama and New York. On arriving in this county he started in the grain business, which he followed for four years, and then traded for twelve hundred acres in Wilton Township. There he engaged in raising high-grade cattle. During the war he was serving as township supervisor. It was his desire to enlist in the army, but could not pass the required medical examination. Nevertheless, he did all in his power to advance the Union cause, and donated \$10 to each member of the first company organized in his vicinity.

Returning to Joliet, Mr. Cagwin purchased a grain elevator on the canal, which he conducted with his father. Next he spent three years in the grain business at Wilmington, after which he built the White Cloud mill and manufactured flour. Nine years were also spent in the grain business in Elwood. Again coming to Joliet, he bought an elevator on the west side, which was known as the Jesse elevator. On selling out he bought a farm on Spring Creek, in Lockport Township, three miles from Joliet, and engaged in superintending the management of its one hundred and five acres until 1891, when he returned to Joliet, leaving the estate in charge of his son, Harlow. Since his return to the city he has resided on Cass street, in the old home of the Higinbotham family.

Until the first presidential campaign of Abraham Lincoln, Mr. Cagwin was a Democrat, but

since then he has been stanch in his adherence to Republican principles. He is a demitted member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in religion is a Universalist. During the early days, while holding the office of highway commissioner, he laid out Cass street as a road and also opened up Washington street. He also served as collector of Joliet Township and supervisor of Wilton Township. During his term of service as highway commissioner he made twelve miles of hard gravel road in the township. He has ever been active in measures for the benefit of the people. The welfare of Joliet and Will County is ever uppermost in his mind, and he has favored every enterprise calculated to promote their progress. No citizen has shown greater public spirit than he. Having been so long and intimately identified with the business interests of the county, he has witnessed the development of its commerce, the extension of its influence and the enlargement of its resources.

On the Higinbotham farm, in January, 1851, occurred the marriage of Mr. Cagwin and Miss Ambrosia Higinbotham. They are the parents of five children, namely: Albert, who is connected with a tobacco manufacturing business in Chicago; Mrs. Almeda Pritz, of Pueblo, Colo.; Nellie, at home; Fred, a business man in Michigan City, Ind.; and Harlow T., who operates the home farm. Mrs. Cagwin's father, Henry D. Higinbotham, was born in Otsego County, N. Y., and, in 1834, when a young man, came to Illinois and entered a large farm, becoming in time one of the most successful farmers of this county. In 1854 he established his home at No. 1009 Cass street, where he died in 1865, aged fifty-nine years. He was the only one of four brothers who came to this county. In many respects his

success was remarkable, for in spite of hardships and obstacles in early days he accumulated what was for that time a fortune. Of the Universalist faith, he was one of the most generous contributors to the church of that denomination in Joliet. He was a Knight Templar Mason and in politics a stanch Democrat.

The marriage of Henry D. Higinbotham united him with Miss Rebecca Wheeler, who was born in New York state. Her father, Samuel B., was born in New England and removed to New York, where he worked as a wagon maker until his death. In 1832, his son, Mansfield, came to Illinois and settled on a farm in what is now Will County. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Higinbotham were seven in number, the most prominent being Harlow Niles Higinbotham, of the firm of Marshall Field & Co., Chicago. Years ago, on starting out in business, he was employed by Potter Palmer and continued with the latter's successors, Field & Leiter, as a credit man. In time he purchased L. Z. Leiter's interest in the business and became a member of the firm. In public affairs he has also been very active, and is one of Chicago's best known citizens. At the time of the World's Fair he held the office of president of the same, and the remarkable success of his work attracted world-wide attention. Politically he is a Republican. The other sons and daughters of H. D. Higinbotham are as follows: Albert, who served in Scott's Chicago regiment during the entire Civil war and died in Joliet; Mrs. Ambrosia Cagwin; Mrs. Ann Eliza Demmond, of Joliet; Mrs. Gertrude Leddy, who died in Joliet; Mrs. Ellen Darwin, who also passed away in this city; and Charles, who is connected with the Elgin postoffice.







*A. H. Schreffler*



## ANDREW H. SHREFFLER.

ANDREW H. SHREFFLER. Few lives of Joliet citizens have borne a grander exemplification of integrity and stability of character than that of Mr. Shreffler. From the early history of Will County his name stood out prominently in each era of development and growth. He was intimately associated with the rise of the tide of commercial advancement from the cabin and forest to busy and populous cities and prosperous farmers. In the financial world and in the hearts of his fellow-men alike he held a proud position. His was a career that knew no such word as failure. Energy and vitality, coupled with his innate conception and appreciation of all that is true and noble, made of the struggling youth a man fitted to fill a high place in the world; and such a place he held throughout his allotted years. When death came he was ready for the summons, and thus quietly passed into eternity's joys one of Joliet's most beloved pioneers.

The history of the Shreffler family appears in the sketch of John D. Shreffler. Andrew Hafer Shreffler was born on a farm near Potter's Mills, in Center County, Pa., June 9, 1826. He came to Joliet with his father in May, 1846, and soon afterward settled in Plainfield, where he began to carve out his dream of a successful career. June 7, 1849, he was married to Elizabeth, second daughter of Michael Dillman. This estimable lady died January 23, 1893; of their five children only one is living, Mrs. Mary E. S. Witwer.

In the spring of 1849 Michael Dillman and his sons started in Plainfield the first manufacturing establishment in Will County. In the fall of 1851 Mr. Shreffler entered the employ of the firm

and became interested with them in the manufacture of stoves, plows, mowers and other implements. In the spring of 1863 the business was transferred to Joliet. The firm name was Dillman & Co., the "Company" being Mr. Shreffler. In 1867 the firm was incorporated under the laws of the state as the Joliet Manufacturing Co., with Mr. Shreffler as the first secretary. This office he filled so creditably and with such foresight of contingencies that in 1873 he was elected president, which position he held from that time until his death. In 1873 he bought out the interest of Andrew Dillman and in 1890 that of L. E. Dillman, at which time he became the sole owner of the valuable manufacturing plant.

Though reared in the Evangelical faith Mr. Shreffler was identified with the Ottawa Street Methodist Episcopal Church during almost the entire period of his residence in Joliet. In every sphere of activity he proved himself to be a man of sincere and earnest Christian character. His name was a synonym of integrity and honor. He was also a man of great energy, to whose enthusiasm and determination the success of the manufacturing plant was largely due. As one who contributed effectively to the progress of Joliet, his name is entitled to a lasting place in the annals of the city. He died December 28, 1896.

HELEM SENSENIG WITWER. The Joliet Manufacturing Company, of which Mr. Witwer is vice-president and manager, is one of the old-established and successful concerns

of Joliet. Some time during the '40s it was started by Michael Dillman in Plainfield, where agricultural implements were manufactured on a very small scale. In March of the year 1863 removal was made to the present site, comprising four acres on Cass street and Youngs avenue, in Joliet, where are now large buildings thoroughly equipped for the various processes of manufacturing. In 1867 the company was incorporated. During the long history of the company its factory has never been closed, except on the occasion of the annual inventory. Employment is furnished about one hundred skilled laborers. For years reapers and mowers, plows and corn shellers were manufactured, but for some time the manufactures have been restricted to the Eureka Ironsides corn sheller, the Shreffler and the Rural corn shellers, the Original Joliet Cylinder corn sheller and Joliet Dustless Cylinder corn sheller No. 2; also the celebrated line of Pitts and Cary patent horse power, the firm being now the only exclusive manufacturers of shellers and powers in the United States. In January, 1897, Mrs. Witwer was elected president and treasurer of the company, and Mr. Witwer vice-president and manager, and these official relations have continued since. The paid-up capital of the company reaches \$70,000. The business is carried on through jobbers, principally the Kingman Company, of St. Louis and Des Moines; Avery Manufacturing Company, of Kansas City; Van Zant Hardware and Implement Company, of Wichita and Hutchinson, Kans.; Lininger & Metcalf, of Omaha; Harber Bros., of Bloomington, Ill.; and the Shannahan-Wrightson Hardware Company, of Easton, Md. The products of the plant are shipped to all parts of the country, and the reputation gained by the company is unexcelled for reliability of business transactions and perfection of machinery.

Mr. Witwer was born in Ashland County, Ohio, February 26, 1862, and was one of twelve children, all but three of whom are still living. There are seven brothers and two sisters, viz.: John S., a dealer in agricultural implements in Dallas, Tex., and postmaster there under President Harrison; T. W., who is cashier of the firm

of Studebaker Bros., of Chicago; George M., private secretary to J. M. Studebaker; Clem S., of this sketch; Edward C., superintendent of the carriage department of Studebaker Bros.' factory at South Bend, Ind.; J. F., who represents Studebaker Bros. in Ohio, making Columbus his headquarters; H. E., secretary and manager of the Studebaker and Lamb ranch at Kersey, Colo.; Mrs. Joseph Kopcsay, of South Bend, Ind.; and Mrs. J. H. Mohler, of Joliet.

The Witwer family originated in Germany, where they were a sturdy race, inhabiting the two provinces on the banks of the upper Rhine. On account of religious and social persecutions they left their native land and settled in Pennsylvania. Members of this family were among the first settlers of Earl Township, Lancaster County, Pa., whither they went as early as 1730, one year after the organization of the county. Among the papers of Rev. George Witwer was found a deed from William Penn to William Sensenig, bearing date 1734, in which appears the name of Michael Witwer, an ancestor of our subject.

The father of our subject, Rev. George Witwer, was born in Earl Township, Lancaster County, August 25, 1824, a son of Isaac Witwer. During the '50s he removed to Ashland County, Ohio, where he engaged in the general mercantile business, served as postmaster at Ashland, and also preached in the Dunkard Church. In 1863 he settled in LaPorte County, Ind., where he carried on farm pursuits and also engaged in ministerial work. In 1867 he went to Missouri as agent for Studebaker Bros. (his brother-in-laws), and established an agricultural implement store at Hamilton, Mo. While living in that state he preached in his denomination. Returning to Indiana in 1881 he was connected with the Studebaker factory in South Bend, and died in that city in October, 1886, aged sixty-six years. Until one month before his death he continued to preach. His wife, who was Elizabeth Studebaker, was born in Lancaster, Pa., and makes her home in South Bend. Her father, John, a native of Pennsylvania, removed to Ashland, Ohio, where he followed the wagon-maker's trade and would have been very successful had



he not lost several thousand dollars by endorsing a note for a friend. His two oldest sons, Henry and Clement, started in business with a capital of \$68, and now give employment to more than two thousand men, the output of their factories being between seventy-five and eighty thousand vehicles annually.

Accompanying his parents in their various removals, the subject of this sketch received common school advantages in the towns where he lived in boyhood. While clerking in a store in Hamilton he also herded cattle at odd times for Dwight & Booth. When fifteen years of age he was given \$500 cash by his employers and was sent twenty miles on horseback to buy cattle, which he did, weighing them and paying for them and then driving them to the nearest railroad at Kidder, Mo. From 1879 to 1881 he was employed as assistant to Studebaker Bros., at South Bend, Ind. While there he joined the South Bend Light Guards and continued the membership at the DePauw University, where he was a student in 1881-82. On leaving the University he became inspector and buyer in the lumber department of Studebaker Bros., also gained some experience as traveling salesman. In 1883 he went to Dallas, Tex., where he managed the business of his brother, J. S. Two years later he traveled for Studebaker Bros., in Indiana, continuing with the firm until he became interested in the Joliet Manufacturing Company. He is a member of the National Implement and Vehicle Manufacturers' Association. At one time he was active in the Business Men's Association and was offered its presidency, but declined. Frequently he has been selected to serve as a delegate to Republican conventions and as a member of committees; offices of trust have been offered him, among them that of mayor of Joliet, but he prefers to devote himself to his business affairs, having little taste for official life. He is connected with the Union Club of Joliet and the Hamilton Club of Chicago.

The home of Mr. Witwer is an elegant residence on Cass street. He was married in Joliet, October 5, 1887, to Miss Mary E. Shreffler, daughter of Andrew Hafer Shreffler, whose large

financial interests were inherited at his death by his only surviving child. Mr. and Mrs. Witwer attend the Ottawa Street Methodist Episcopal Church, in which Mr. Witwer is a member of the board of trustees. They are liberal supporters of all church and benevolent institutions. Their home is the scene of many social functions, the pleasure of which is heightened by their courteous hospitality and refined surroundings. They are the parents of one son, Andrew Hafer Shreffler Witwer, born February 21, 1894. Their daughter, Irene, was born July 17, 1890, and died September 30, 1891.

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**H**ON. EDWIN PORTER, president of the E. Porter Brewing Company and the E. Porter & Son's Stone Company, both of Joliet, and sole proprietor of the Gold King mine in Cripple Creek, Colo., was born in Granger, Medina County, Ohio, April 19, 1828. He was one of the three children forming the family of Harvey and Harriet (Culbert) Porter, natives of New York. He comes of patriotic lineage, for his father was a soldier in the war of 1812 and his grandfather Porter served through the entire seven years of the Revolutionary struggle. He was educated in common schools and Brooklyn Academy, and for a time was connected with a coal business in 1856. The year 1856 found him in Joliet, where he started in the malting and brewing business on the Desplaines River. At first his business was very small, but, being energetic and judicious, he increased it constantly though gradually, and it has now become the largest brewery in the city and one of the largest in the state. It has a capacity of one hundred and fifty barrels a day, ninety-five per cent of the output being beer. Mr. Porter is president of the company and has a most efficient co-laborer in Joseph Braun, Jr., secretary and treasurer, in whose judgment and experience he reposes the utmost confidence. In 1889 the brewery was re-



modeled and made first-class in every respect. The plant covers two blocks and is provided with all modern improvements. Water is furnished from two artesian wells and is declared by chemists to be especially adapted for the brewing of beer, the wells being in bed rock, where no surface water can reach them. On the incorporation of the firm in 1893, the name was made E. Porter Brewing Company, and continues as such to the present. The work of brewing is in charge of Henry Leser, who has had experience with some of the largest breweries in the country and who has held his present position since 1886.

It is not always that a man can successfully conduct two enterprises, different in nature and requiring the exercise of different talents. However, Mr. Porter has not only been successful as the head of a large brewery, but he has also built up an important stone business. In 1883 he became interested in quarrying. Two years later E. Porter & Son's Stone Company was incorporated, with him as its president. They have since operated quarries in the east part of the city, adjoining the limits, from which shipments are made to many points. This business is under the management of Harry E. Porter. In 1895 Mr. Porter bought the Gold King mine on Gold

Hill, in the Cripple Creek district, and has since been sole proprietor of the same, taking an active interest in its development.

In Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Porter married Miss Almena A. Curtis, who was born in that city. They became the parents of three sons, namely: Charles and Joseph C., deceased; and Harry, who is manager of the stone business.

The Democratic party usually receives Mr. Porter's support. In 1864 he was elected mayor of Joliet and was again elected in 1865 and 1871. Under the new city charter he was twice elected to the mayor's office for two years (in 1879 and 1881) and in 1883 was elected for a term of four years, his entire service in this position covering a longer period than that of any other mayor the city has had. He is a member of the Business Men's Association. Fraternally he is connected with Matteson Lodge, A. F. & A. M., in which he is a past officer. In personal characteristics he is conservative, unassuming and reserved; deliberate in forming his judgment, but not easily changed when once a course of action is decided upon; devoted to his business and finding his keenest enjoyment in the management of large financial enterprises; yet withal, to those who know him well, a genial companion and warm friend.





*C. C. Robinson*



## CHRISTOPHER C. ROBINSON.

CHRISTOPHER C. ROBINSON, deceased, was during his active years one of Lockport's most successful citizens. He was recognized as a man of unusual ability as a financier. Quick to see an opportunity for an advantageous investment, he was equally quick to avail himself of it. He had many and varied interests, all of which, with scarcely an exception, proved a source of profit to him. Coming to Lockport at the time when everything was booming, he furnished the contractors on the canal with beef and also dealt in stock. At different times he bought property in Chicago and Lockport, the rise in the value of which greatly enhanced his wealth. With no desire for personal display, he was economical and even frugal in his life, but free from a spirit of parsimony.

In Chelsea, Vt., where he was born March 28, 1812, Mr. Robinson passed the years of his youth, meantime learning the machinist's trade. In 1836 he came to Lockport, after which he worked very little at his trade, finding other enterprises that were more profitable. He made the first drill that was used on the Illinois and Michigan canal. In 1857, in partnership with A. S. Anderson, he bought a farm just across the line in Dupage County, and for seven years made his home on that place, after which he returned to Lockport and continued to reside here until his death, February 22, 1872, at the age of about sixty years. While he did not care for office, he never failed to vote the Republican ticket at elections and was always interested in the success of his party. Though not identified with any denomination, he was a believer in the Christian religion and aided in works of a charitable and religious nature.

The marriage of Mr. Robinson, April 22, 1857, united him with Miss Lydia A. Turner, who was born in Ashtabula, Ohio, and came to Lockport in girlhood, since which time she has made her home in or near this place. No children were born of her marriage to Mr. Robinson, but they adopted a daughter, Hettie C., who married Fred A. Bartlett, and resides in a house adjoining the one occupied by Mrs. Robinson in Lockport, and whose love and affection have brightened the home life of Mrs. Robinson.

The home life of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson was ideal, and much of the success of his life was due to the wise counsels of his wife, who was a true helpmeet. His christianity was shown by helping his fellow-men, regardless of their social position or creed. The inner life is the real life of any man, and those who knew Mr. Robinson best admired and honored him most.

JOHN P. PATTERSON, secretary, treasurer and manager of the Dupage Valley creamery in Wheatland Township, was born in England, March 12, 1855, a son of Thomas and Agnes (Palmer) Patterson. His father, a native of Scotland, moved to England when thirty years of age and followed the carpenter's trade at Manchester. In 1858 he crossed the ocean to America, coming direct to Will County and buying sixty acres in Wheatland Township, where his son's home now is. Here he followed farming and carpentering. He built a number of bridges, as well as several farm houses, including the large

residence of Thomas Clow. Politically he favored Republican principles. For many years he held office as a school director. He was reared in the United Presbyterian faith and always held membership with that church. By prudence, economy and good judgment he accumulated one hundred and twenty acres, bearing excellent improvements. He died October 24, 1878, when fifty-six years of age. Of his five children two died in infancy. Those living are John P., Agnes (Mrs. McPherson) and Elizabeth.

Ever since he was three years of age our subject has lived in Illinois. He was reared in this township and received his education in its schools. Under his father's supervision he gained a thorough knowledge of farm work. Unlike many young men, he had no desire to leave home and seek his fortune among strangers, but was content to remain in the place familiar to him from early childhood. On his father's death he took charge of the homestead, engaging in general farming and stock-raising. He was one of the original stockholders of the creamery and one of the commissioners who secured its charter. The company was organized in May, 1894, and the creamery was started August 15 of the same year, with a capital stock of \$9,750. The enterprise has proved a most profitable one and has paid its projectors large dividends. A large, well-equipped building is utilized for a creamery. For the year there is an average daily receipt of eighteen thousand pounds of milk. The most of the butter is sent to the Fox River Butter Company at Aurora. The quality of the dairy product is exceptionally fine and has given invariable satisfaction. This gratifying result is almost wholly due to Mr. Patterson's judicious management. Upon the formation of the company he was chosen secretary and treasurer and one year later was made manager, a position that he has since filled to the satisfaction of all the stockholders.

Politically Mr. Patterson is a Republican. He has served as a delegate to almost every county Republican convention since he was twenty-one years of age. For six years he held office as justice of the peace and for a similar period served as

highway commissioner. February 20, 1886, he married Emma, daughter of Jacob Matter, and a sister of Elton E. Matter, of Wheatland Township. To their marriage seven children were born, namely: Ralph; Sterling; Bernice, deceased; Rodger, deceased; Gladys; James and Homer.

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**W**ILLIAM GOUGAR, one of the old settlers of New Lenox Township, was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, a son of William and Catherine (Abel) Gougar. His paternal grandfather was born in Germany and emigrated from there to Pennsylvania, settling in Berks County, where he developed a farm and remained until his death. His two brothers came with him; one settled in Virginia and the other in Kentucky. From Berks County William Gougar, Sr., and his wife removed to Pickaway County, Ohio, in 1818, the year of their son's birth. They bought a farm which the father began to develop, but after four years he sold out, removing to Vermilion County, Ind. In 1831 he brought his family to Will County, Ill. (accompanied by his father), and purchased a tract of raw prairie on Hickory Creek. At once he began the task of improving the property, and from time to time he added to his holdings until, when he died, he was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, where he engaged in farming and stock-raising. For years his home was in a log cabin destitute of the improvements and furnishings of our modern residences, but in later days he erected a more commodious house. For many years Nicholas Gougar was postmaster at the old Gougar homestead, which office has since been transferred to Joliet.

On the Democratic ticket William Gougar, Sr., was elected to various township offices, including that of commissioner, which he held for several years. He was also a member of the school board of his district. In the division of Will from Cook County he took an active part, as well as in other important movements of early days.



He had been reared in the faith of the German Lutheran Church, and often those of similar belief met at his home for religious worship, there being no organized church of the denomination in the vicinity. He was spared to attain eighty years of age, and passed away in 1861. His wife, who was born in Pennsylvania, died at the Will County homestead in 1854, at the age of fifty-six years. They were the parents of eleven children, seven of whom are living, namely: John, the eldest, who lives in New Lenox Township and is now almost ninety years of age; Jacob, of Kankakee County; Daniel, whose home is in Joliet; William; Lewis and Joseph E. (twins), the former of Denver, Colo., the latter of this county; and Eliza, wife of William Wilson.

When it is remembered that the boyhood days of our subject, William Gougar, were passed in new and unsettled sections of the country, where schools had not yet been introduced, it can be readily understood that he had no advantages for obtaining an education. When he was fourteen years of age he accompanied numerous Will County men into the Black Hawk war, spending several months on the field of warfare, enduring many hardships and privations. His brothers, Daniel and Nicholas, were members of the militia in the Black Hawk war. On his return home he assisted his father on the farm. In 1850 he made a trip with four mule teams to the gold fields of California, where he remained for three years, meeting with fair success as a miner. In 1853 he came back to Will County. The following year he purchased a farm one mile west of New Lenox and there he resided until 1891, engaging in stock-raising and general farming. In 1891 he bought a home in New Lenox and retired from active labors, having met with an accident that disabled him for hard work. Though he began with nothing he now owns five hundred and thirty acres of good land.

No citizen is more interested in the progress of the township than is Mr. Gougar. He remembers the days when settlers were few, and even the most sanguine never hoped for a condition of prosperity such as the present decade has witnessed. When Indians were numerous and hos-

tile, on one occasion they drove the family from home, and they remained in the Wabash country until the fall of 1832, when they came back to Will County. He was a charter member of the Grange and aided in its organization. In politics a Democrat, he served as supervisor for one term and as school director for several terms, and has aided in the erection of schoolhouses and other public buildings. By his marriage, in 1859, to Clarissa, daughter of Baldwin Hawkins, of Kankakee County, Ill., he has three children: William Joel, who has successfully engaged in farming, Helen and Frank.

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**R**OBERT MILNE, who was a pioneer of Lockport, was one of the first to bring thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle into this locality, and was a man of great energy of character and kindness of heart. He was of Scotch birth, born February 14, 1805, and grew to manhood in his native country, where he learned and followed the stone-mason's trade. When thirty years of age he crossed the ocean to Canada, where he remained for a few months. About 1836 he went to Chicago, where he had contracts for putting the locks on the Illinois and Michigan canal. On completing the work he returned to Canada, and formed a partnership with a contractor, the two opening up work on the Welland canal. Returning to Lockport he took the contract for putting in the locks near here, and in this way he was led to establish his home here. For several years he operated and managed a planing and saw mill, and upon selling out he purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres, a part of which now lies in the city of Lockport. Turning his attention to the improvement of the property, he continued in agricultural pursuits until his death. He was a very progressive man, and was a leader in introducing Shorthorn cattle into this county, going to Scotland for the purpose of purchasing a number of thoroughbreds.



December 31, 1846, Mr. Milne married Miss Isabel Maitland, who was born and educated in Aberdeen, Scotland. At the age of sixteen years, accompanied by her two sisters, she landed in America, proceeding at once to Chicago, where she made her home until the time of her marriage. To their marriage nine children were born; of these we note the following: William, who was for twenty years a clerk and collector in the canal office, is now engaged in the manufacture of umbrellas and canes in New York City; Jennie is the widow of John M. Frowe, of Evanston, Ill.; Robert is extensively engaged in the hay business at Baxter Springs, Kans.; Isabel is the wife of John I. Rice, of Chicago; Agnes M. is the wife of Henry D. Baker, of Evanston; Margaret M. married Charles A. Ewen and they reside with her mother; Georgiana died at thirty years of age; James A. has charge of the homestead; and Frank M. is engaged in business in Chicago.

For many years Mr. Milne was a deacon in the Congregational Church. His family also took an interest in the work of that church, and his wife is still one of its most faithful members. For eight years he served as a commissioner on the canal. While he never attained wealth, he accumulated a competency, in spite of many obstacles that beset him; and at the time of his death he left an improved farm for his widow and children. He passed from earth November 2, 1892, after a useful and successful life, and was followed to his grave by the respect of the many acquaintances he had made after coming to this county.

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**JOHN D. SHREFFLER.** During the more than fifty years that Mr. Shreffler has made his home in this county he has gained a wide acquaintance and a high standing among its citizens. In former years his business interests required his presence in other counties and states much of the time, yet he always kept in touch with affairs in his home neighborhood, and

gave his influence in behalf of measures for the benefit of the people. Though now in the twilight of his useful life, he is still remarkably active and retains his interest in matters relating to the welfare of the state and nation. He has witnessed with pride the gradual growth of the county, the introduction of railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, the founding of villages and the improvement of valuable farms from the broad-stretching prairie, and in all of this work of development he has borne no insignificant part. He has not sought positions of an official nature, preferring the part of a private citizen, whose duties he has at all times striven to fill; but, though not an office-seeker nor a politician, he consented, at the request of the voters of his section, to hold the office of assessor as well as a number of village offices.

The Shreffler family has been identified with American history for at least four generations, having come from Germany in an early day. Henry Shreffler, who was a native of Pennsylvania, served in the Revolutionary war, and as a result of the exposure and sufferings of those memorable years, lost his eyesight. Among his four sons and one daughter was a son, Daniel, who was educated in subscription schools and under his father, learned the weaver's trade, besides which he engaged in farming. He was a zealous worker in the Evangelical Association and often officiated as a local preacher in that denomination. Politically he was a Democrat. By his marriage to Catherine Dauberman he had six children, of whom one son and three daughters are deceased, the survivors being John D. and Mrs. Rebecca Hahn, both of this county.

In Center County, Pa., John D. Shreffler was born in 1817. Reared on a farm, he early became familiar with that occupation. In the spring of 1846 he came to Illinois and took up his residence in Will County, bringing with him his bride, who was Sarah A. Towner, of Pennsylvania. After a time he became connected with C. Aultman & Co., of Akron, Ohio, as their representative in Illinois, Wisconsin and the states west, for the sale of the Buckeye reaper and the Sweepstakes thresher. He was given

charge of the appointing and supervision of local agents and also made all collections for the firm in his district. Some years later the business was divided, and he was given charge of the reaper and mower department. He continued with the company for ten years, meantime traveling through every section of Illinois and also visiting other states. Through his energy and perseverance a large business was built up. Supplies were distributed from Chicago to the various points, as ordered. During the fall of each year he visited county fairs, exhibiting the implements for which he was agent. However, the business required him to be away from home so much of the time that he became dissatisfied and determined to retire from it. Settling up his accounts, he turned his attention to the management of his landed interests in Will County. His farm was located in the southern part of the village of Plainfield, and all but ninety-one acres of the quarter section was within the village limits; a portion of the place has since been platted in town lots and sold. Besides the buying and selling of land, he erected a number of business buildings and several residences, which he rents. He was also contractor in the building of one of the former Plainfield schoolhouses. He has invested largely in both improved and unimproved real estate, and has held the most of what he has bought.

Since the time of John C. Fremont's presidential campaign, Mr. Shreffler has been a Republican. Externally he is connected with Plainfield Lodge, A. F. & A. M. When a young man he united with the Methodist Church and he has since been an active worker in the denomination, being one of the leading supporters of the congregation at Plainfield. He has aided in the erection of two edifices in this place, the second of which is the finest ever built here, being a stone structure that was built at a cost of \$18,000. As chairman of the building committee, the responsibility of the work fell largely upon him, and he gave not only of his time, but also very liberally of his means. He has held the various offices in the church and is now serving as a steward and trustee. In former years he also

held the office of Sunday-school superintendent. Not only religious, but all worthy charitable movements, have received his encouragement and aid. No worthy object of charity ever appealed to him in vain for help; yet, while he has been a constant giver, he has done it so quietly and unostentatiously that it may be truly said of him the right hand knew not what the left hand did. Having no children of his own, it has been one of his pleasures to help the children of others, and he is exceedingly popular among the little ones of his neighborhood. As one of the early residents of the county, and a man whose energies have been devoted to the development of its agricultural resources, his name well deserves mention in this work.

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**L**EWIS F. GOUGAR, a prominent farmer of New Lenox Township, was born November 15, 1852, upon the farm where he still lives. He is a son of John Gougar, who was born in Montour County, Pa., March 20, 1810, a son of William and Catherine (Abel) Gougar, reference to whom is made in the sketch of William Gougar on another page of this volume. The family were pioneers of Ohio, where, in 1818, the grandfather in one day, beginning before sunrise and finishing about four o'clock in the afternoon, cut and shocked forty acres with a hand sickle. The great-great-grandmother was killed by Indians in Pennsylvania and her two daughters were taken prisoners. Several years later one of the daughters returned home, but the other was never heard of again.

At the time the family moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio John Gougar was eight years of age. September 10, 1830, he came to Illinois and settled in what is now New Lenox Township, Will County (then Cook County), where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of government land at \$1.25 an acre. Building a log cabin, he began the task of clearing and improving the land. In 1831 his parents joined



him here. Throughout his entire active life he continued to manage the same property. During the Black Hawk war he was a member of the home guard, which was subject to call at any time. He is still living on the old homestead, but for years has been retired from active labors. In spite of his advanced years he takes an intelligent interest in public affairs and retains his mental and physical faculties to a large degree. All of his active life was passed on the frontier. When he went to Ohio in 1818 that state was still undeveloped and comparatively unsettled, and for many years after he came to Illinois the surroundings were those of the frontier. In an early day, when he was cutting wheat with an old-fashioned hand sickle, by some accident he cut the little finger of his left hand, and the scar may still be seen. On the site of the farm was at one time an Indian cemetery, on which was to be seen a pole bearing a white flag. His son, Lewis F., found many Indian relics on the farm, and to these he has added by purchase till now he has a fine collection. When the treaty was made by which the Indians were removed from this locality, before departing they came to the cemetery for the last time and observed in due form all of their ceremonies of mourning. In 1883, when a barn was built on the farm, several Indian relics were found.

John Gougar is a Democrat in national political issues, but in his township affairs he votes for the best man, regardless of party. He is a pioneer of the old type and will long be remembered by the descendants of the pioneers as a kind-hearted, honest man. To-day he is one of the few surviving members of the early pioneers who laid the foundation for the great state of Illinois.

In 1849 John Gougar married Mary Ann Miller, who was born in Pennsylvania and died on the homestead January 29, 1896, at the age of eighty-three years. Her sister, Mrs. Polly Williams, who resided with her, died at the age of eighty-eight. Lewis F. Gougar, who was the only child of his parents, has been a lifelong resident of this county, and was educated in the common schools here and in Englewood high school. When his father, owing to advancing

years, retired from the active management of the home place, he succeeded to it, and has since made a number of important improvements. He is the owner of three hundred and forty acres, on which he engages in raising stock and farm produce. Politically he is a Democrat in national issues and in local matters is independent. For several years he has served as school director and road master. In religion he is an Episcopalian. His marriage, May 14, 1891, united him with Miss Gertrude Richards, daughter of Daniel and Almira (Cooley) Richards, now of Jackson Township, this county. They have two children, Davis R. and Mary Almira, the latter named after her two grandmothers.

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**S**ELAH PERKINS NORTH was born at Monroe Falls, Ohio, August 21, 1842. He was educated at Valparaiso College, at Valparaiso, Ind., and in early life learned the miller's trade at that place, following the occupation there for six years. While working as a miller he enlisted in the Union army, in August, 1862, becoming a member of the marine artillery at Chicago, Ill. It was the original plan to assign the artillery to the Mississippi River marine gunboats, but a change was made and they were sent to Roanoke Island, thence to Newbern, N. C., and mustered out in 1863. After some months in Valparaiso, the following year Mr. North was drafted into service and entered the Seventeenth Indiana Mounted Infantry, a part of General Wilson's cavalry corps, and in this he served until the close of the war. While he was serving in the quartermaster's department at Macon, Ga., news of the close of the rebellion reached him. He was mustered out of the service and honorably discharged.

Returning to Valparaiso Mr. North resumed work as a miller. In 1867 he moved to Madison, Wis., where he became a retail grocer. During his residence there he married, at Lockport, Ill., March 31, 1868, Miss Mary L. Hawley, daughter



of Warren Hawley, who settled in Lockport Township, this county, in 1835. While he was in the Normal school at Valparaiso he made the acquaintance of Miss Hawley, who was a student in that institution. After their marriage they settled in Madison. After the death of Mrs. North's mother they came to Lockport Township and settled on the old Hawley homestead, caring for Warren Hawley until his death, July 1, 1898, at the age of eighty-six years.

Since his removal to Lockport Township Mr. North has been connected with its farm interests. Being an industrious and capable farmer, and ably assisted by his wife, he was prospered. In 1895 he was enabled to buy the old Hawley homestead of eighty-eight acres, which is one of the best in the township. Mrs. North was born on this place, and its associations, extending back to her earliest recollections, are dear to her. She is a well-educated lady and for a number of years before her marriage taught in Michigan and Illinois, proving an efficient educator. She is one of the highly esteemed ladies of the township.

Fraternally Mr. North is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has taken a warm interest in the work of the Republican party. The good roads in his district and township are largely due to his energy and perseverance, during the nine years that he filled the office of highway commissioner. In educational matters he has been actively interested. For twenty-one years he was a member of the board of school directors, during which time he did much to advance the cause of education. The main responsibility of managing the school fell upon him while he was a director, and to his credit it may be said that he discharged every duty faithfully and well.

Mr. and Mrs. North became the parents of six children. Those living are: John E., a physician and surgeon, married and living at Rock Rapids, Iowa; William W., attorney at Lockport, Ill.; Frank E. and Selah H., at home on the farm. Sarah L., an only daughter, died at the age of sixteen years, January 13, 1889, and an infant son died when a few weeks old.

Tracing the history of the North family from

the time of its settlement in America, the following is the genealogical record:

John North left England for America in 1635 at the age of twenty. In 1653 he settled in Farmington, Conn., and purchased a lot near the north end of Farmington street, on which he lived. He was a member of the church in that town. He died in 1690, leaving nine children, viz.: John, Samuel, Mary, James, Thomas, Sarah, Nathaniel, Lydia and Joseph.

Thomas North was born in 1649. He settled in the town of Avon, Conn. He was a soldier in the Indian war, for his services in which he received a grant of land. He had ten children, viz.: John, Thomas, Hannah, Nathaniel, Mary, Joseph, Rebeckah, Lydia, Sarah and Ebenezer. He died in 1712.

Thomas North, Jr., lived in Kensington, Conn. He was one of the founders of the church and was a man of wealth and influence. His eight children were Martha, Isaac, Thomas, James, Sarah, Samuel, Joseph and Hannah.

Isaac North was born in 1703. He was a deacon in the church at Kensington. He died in 1788. His children, numbering eight, were named Isaac, Mary, Jedediah, Lydia, Samuel, Seth, Ruth and Lethe.

Jedediah North was born in 1734, lived in Berlin and was a member of the church at that place. He married Sarah Wilcox and had eleven children, viz.: Asa, Levi, David, Simcon, Stephen, Sarah, Olive, Patience, Noah, Lydia and Hannah. He died in 1816.

Simeon North was born July 13, 1765. He lived first in Berlin, then in Middletown, Conn. He was a manufacturer of arms for the United States Government. In 1786 he married Lucy Savage, who died in 1811. He afterward married Lydia Huntington (a daughter of Rev. Enoch Huntington, of Middletown, Conn.), who died in 1840. He had nine children, viz.: Reuben, James, Alvin, Selah, Elizabeth, Lucetta, Simeon, Nancy and Lydia. He died August 25, 1852.

Selah North was born at Berlin, Conn., in 1791. He was killed by lightning in his own farm house at Monroe Falls, Ohio, August 13,

1850. He had thirteen children, viz.: Nancy, Julia, Egbert, George, John, Phillip, Charles, Sarah, Newell, Charlotte, Ellen, Bessie and Selah P. (the subject of this sketch), the four last mentioned by his second wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Perkins, and who died March 2, 1872, aged seventy-two years.

**L**YMAN W. FARNAM, who owns and occupies a pleasant little homestead of ten acres near the village of Crete, was born in Franklin County, Mass., January 14, 1834. His father, William, a native of Massachusetts, born March 1, 1804, spent his entire life on a farm in that state, and died there July 7, 1869. Politically he voted with the Democrats until the anti-slavery agitation arose, when he sided with the Republicans, and always after 1860 voted the Republican ticket. He was a son of Heman and Mary (Field) Farnam, natives of Massachusetts. The former, born on Christmas day of 1761, was a fur trader and dealer, bringing his furs to Boston for sale. He died November 8, 1847. His wife was born March 30, 1764, and died August 12, 1846. The mother of our subject was Orpha Hartwell, born in Massachusetts, November 26, 1805, and there deceased, April 17, 1835, at less than thirty years of age. In religion she was a Baptist. She was a daughter of Ward Hartwell, a New Englander.

The subject of this sketch was the only child of his parents. He remained on the home farm until he was twenty, when he left home and secured work in a cutlery factory. After three years in the factory he came west in 1858, and secured work on a farm in Bureau County, Ill. Nine months later he went to Kane County, and later worked on farms in Christian and Morgan Counties, this state. In 1860 he came to Crete

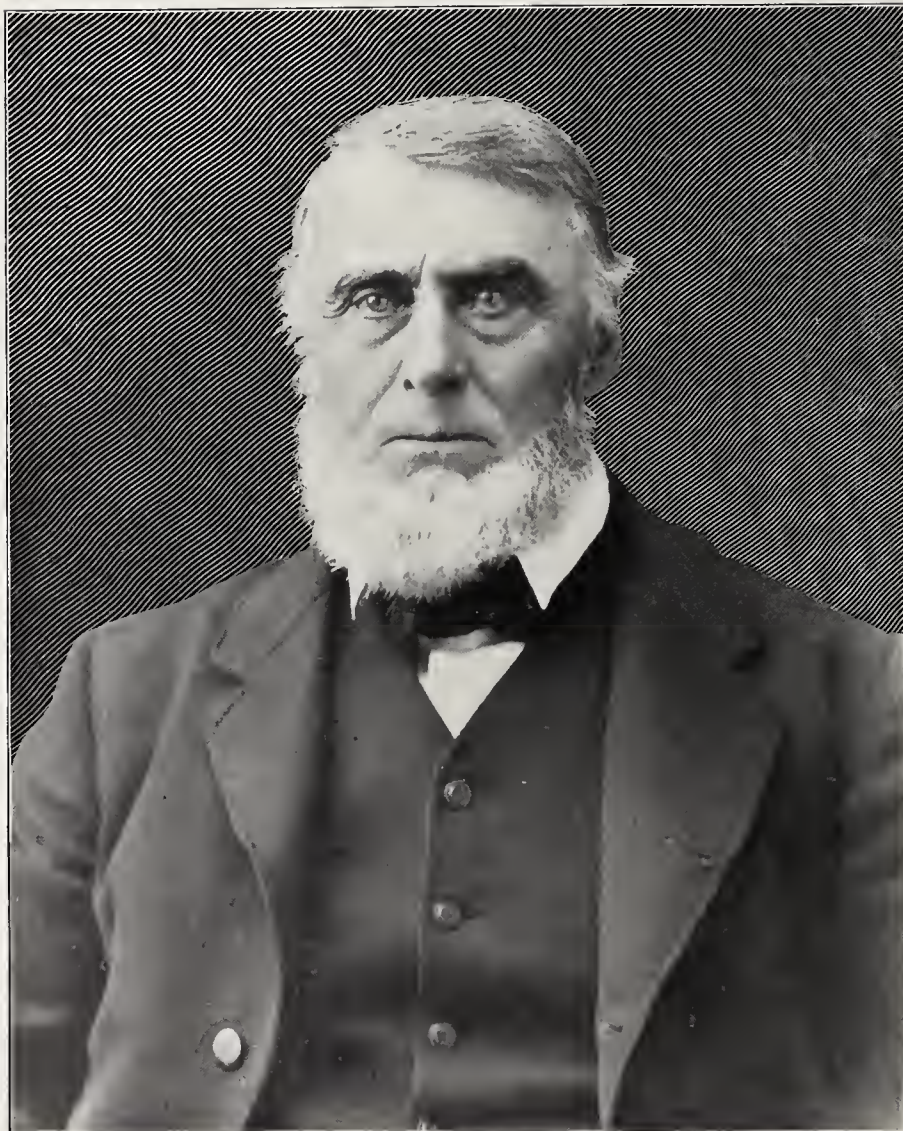
and rented a farm near the village. During the Civil war he was an enthusiastic Union supporter. September 26, 1864, he enlisted in Company F, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, with which he went to the front and in which he served, mostly on guard duty, in Maryland and Virginia. At the close of the war he returned to this county and for two years rented a farm in Richland Township. From there he came back to Crete Township and bought a part of his father-in-law's farm, where he has since made his home.

August 20, 1861, Mr. Farnam married Miss Sarah M. Haner, who was born near Syracuse, N. Y., May 10, 1835, a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Mogg) Haner, natives of Schoharie County, N. Y. Her father, who was born April 20, 1811, farmed in the east until September, 1851, when he brought his family to this county, settling on a farm near Crete. In 1878 he moved to Missouri and there died August 2, 1879. His wife was born October 31, 1815, and died February 19, 1885. They were the parents of eleven children, seven of whom are still living. Mrs. Farnam was sixteen years of age when the family settled in Crete Township. Prior to this she had received a fair education in New York. She is an estimable lady, and has many friends among the people of the township where from girlhood she has made her home. Of her three children one died in infancy; Lillian and Mary make their home with their parents and are popular and active in the work of the Congregational Church at Crete. For some years Miss Lillian has been a successful teacher in the Chicago schools, where her ability has won for her recognition among the teachers of that city.

Mr. Farnam has never forgotten his days of active service in the army, and often calls those times to mind when in the companionship of the members of Chicago Heights Post No. 759, G. A. R., to which he belongs; or when he meets other veterans of that long and fierce struggle.







*C. C. Smith*



*Coringa Smith*





## CHARLES CLAYBORN SMITH.

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**C**HARLES CLAYBORN SMITH. The life of Mr. Smith was for years inseparably associated with the history of this county, where he made his home from June, 1835, until his death, January 27, 1892. Through his energy of disposition and uprightness of character he won a competency and gained a high name among his associates. As a farmer, he was industrious and intelligent; as a citizen, public-spirited; as a business man, keen and quick, and in his home relations devoted and affectionate. Coming to the county while it was still a part of Cook County and contained few people, he witnessed its remarkable growth and the development of its resources, and, through his keen foresight, accumulated a valuable property, which has increased steadily in its worth. He was thus able to leave his family in comfortable circumstances, besides giving each of his children a good start in the world.

Mr. Smith was born in Jefferson County, Tenn., May 2, 1818, a son of Barton and Faithy (Moore) Smith, who were the children of Revolutionary soldiers and of English descent. Barton Smith was the youngest of a family of six sons and three daughters. All of his brothers were present with General Jackson at the battle of Horse Shoe Bend and he had started to join the troops, but was taken back home by friends after he had gone six hundred miles or more. From Tennessee he removed to Fountain County, Ind., after his marriage, and in 1835 brought his family to Illinois, buying a lot in Joliet. While he carried on a farm, he continued to make his home in Joliet until his death in 1862. He

served as police magistrate and deputy county collector. His wife survived him thirteen years. They had four children, all now deceased.

When the family came to this county Charles C. Smith was seventeen years of age. He then started out as a peddler, making regular trips through Cook, Iroquois, Vermilion and Will Counties, and trading his goods for butter, eggs, ginseng root, hides, tallow, cattle, etc. After nine years as a peddler he rented a farm, which he cultivated in the ensuing years. In 1850 he bought the place, which then consisted of one hundred and forty acres. Afterward he added to his property until he owned twenty-nine hundred and fifty acres of land, some within the boundary of Wilmington Township. For eight years he had a contract to furnish the state penitentiary with beef, and during one year of this time the value of the meat furnished was \$35,000.

About the time that he purchased his farm Mr. Smith established a home of his own. He was married July 24, 1850, to Miss Corinza Burr, daughter of Wareham Bissell and Nancy (Cummings) Burr. Her father, who was a direct descendant of Aaron Burr, was born October 25, 1795, and died September 6, 1861. He was reared near Jamestown, N. Y., and for two years engaged in teaching school there. September 12, 1822, he married Miss Cummings and removed to Indiana, remaining near Shelbyville until 1833. His next removal brought him to Will County, where he settled eight miles up the river from Wilmington. He came in the spring just after the Sauk war and his family followed him in the fall. Buying government land, he

settled down to farming and also taught for some years in the district schools, having previously been a prominent educator in Indiana. Later he sold his place and removed to Wilmington, where he made his home for five years. From there he went to Jackson Grove and bought land, where he spent the remaining years of his life. He was a consistent member of the Baptist Church and a man who stood high in his community. His father, Bissell Burr, born December 14, 1771, was a son of Nathaniel Burr, whose father, John, (born in 1670) was a son of Samuel Burr. The latter, a native of England, was made a freeman in Hartford, Conn., in May, 1658. His father, Benjamin Burr, was the founder of this branch of the family in America. He was one of the original settlers of Hartford, Conn., in 1635. His name, in the land division of Hartford in 1639 as an original proprietor and settler, is the first evidence we have of his presence in America, but as the first settlers of Hartford were collected from Watertown, Newton and other places near Boston, it is supposed that he was in Massachusetts some time before removing to Hartford. He may have been among the eight hundred who came to America with the Winthrop fleet in June, 1630. He died in Hartford March 30, 1681. He had been made a freeman in 1658.

The mother of Mrs. Smith was a daughter of William and Sarah (Hunt) Cummings, of North Carolina families. Her parents came from the south to Indiana and afterward settled in Missouri, where they died. Ten children were born to the union of C. C. Smith and Miss Burr. Of these Edgar Francis died in infancy and Emma J., Mrs. Herman H. Unland, is also deceased. Barton, the oldest of the family, is a member of the firm of Smith & Baker, corporation attorneys, of Toledo, Ohio; he is one of the prominent Masons of Ohio and has held the highest offices in his lodge, chapter and commandery. William T., the second son, is a coal mine operator in Kenmare, N. D. Ella May is the wife of W. B. Douglas, of St. Paul, one of the most prominent public men in Minnesota, for two terms a member of the state legislature and now attorney-general of the state. Charles W., of Joliet, is engaged

in the cattle business. Lucy M. is the wife of Frank A. Miller, an expert machinist of Oshkosh, Wis. Cora A. is the wife of Dr. Henry F. Hicks, a prominent dentist of Joliet; Eva S. is the wife of Provan W. Smith, a farmer of Channahon Township; and Floyd H. resides with his mother on the old homestead, the cultivation of which he superintends. Of the large family who once were sheltered by the old home, he alone remains. He was born here June 6, 1874, and acquired his education in the common schools and Joliet high school. After the estate was settled he began the supervision of six hundred and thirty acres that fell to his lot. He is now one of the progressive farmers of Channahon Township and is very popular with the young people of this section. Like his father he is a Democrat politically. Like him, too, he takes an interest in educational work and is a member of the school board. Fraternally he is connected with Channahon Lodge No. 162, A. F. & A. M.; Kalon Camp No. 4282, Modern Woodmen of America; and Channahon Lodge No. 713, Court of Honor.

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**E**LTON E. MATTER is one of the prosperous and popular farmers of Wheatland Township, and owns one hundred and four acres of highly cultivated land, bearing excellent improvements. While he oversees his farm with a careful eye, his attention is not limited to farming. He was one of the original stockholders of the Dupage Valley creamery, in which he served as a director for three years. Since the organization of the Hoddam Threshing Company he has held office as its secretary and treasurer. In connection with general farming he carries on dairying, and, though as yet this work is conducted on a small scale, he has found it a profitable adjunct of farming. In local politics he is an active Republican. In 1894 he was elected collector of the township and in 1899 was chosen to act as commissioner, since which time he has been treasurer of the board.



In the township where he now lives Mr. Matter was born January 13, 1862. His father, Jacob, a native of Pennsylvania, learned the shoemaker's trade in youth, and later, in connection with that occupation, he engaged in lumbering and rafting logs. In 1844 he came west to Illinois. For a time he cultivated a rented farm near Naperville. Later he took up eighty acres of government land on section 4, Wheatland Township, Will County, which he improved and on which he made his home until 1869. He then sold the place to his oldest son and went to Aurora, Ill., where he conducted a grocery business. Soon, however, he returned to farming, purchasing the farm now owned by our subject. In the fall of 1886 he moved from this place to Naperville, and there his last years were spent. During his early residence in this township he served as collector. He was a Republican, but not active in politics. The Evangelical Church numbered him among its earnest members and he took a warm interest in its work. At one time he owned one hundred and sixty acres, but disposed of a part of this, so that at his death his possessions had been reduced to one hundred acres. His wife, who was Naney Milliren, of Pennsylvania, is living in Naperville and is now eighty-two years of age. Of their eleven children one died in infancy; Abraham is a farmer in Dupage County, this state; Abbie is the wife of D. B. Givler, of Naperville; Mary is the wife of Rev. J. H. Yage, treasurer of Northwestern College, an Evangelical institution in Naperville; Isaac lives in Aurora; Ella married Prof. L. M. Umbach, of Northwestern College; Henry J. is engaged in railroading and makes Aurora his home; Sarah is the wife of G. S. Bartholomew, of Rockford, Ill.; Emma married John P. Patterson; Newton E. is editor of the *Wheaton Illinoisan*, at Wheaton, Ill.

The subject of this sketch was six years of age when his parents moved to Aurora. His education was obtained principally in the schools of that city. He was fourteen when the family returned to this township. Since then he has made his home on his present farm. March 18, 1886, he married Miss Emma Stark, a native of Wheat-

land Township, and daughter of Jacob Stark, now living retired in Naperville. Mr. and Mrs. Matter have one son, Robert Earl, who was born July 20, 1891. Fraternally our subject is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. While he is not connected with any denomination, his sympathies are with the Evangelical Church, to which his wife belongs and in which faith he was reared.

**ZEHEMIAH H. CUTTER.** For a period of sixty-three years the life of Mr. Cutter was associated with the growth and progress of Joliet. Coming to this city in 1834 he found little to encourage a belief that in future years a large and thriving town would occupy the site which then boasted of only a few houses. Deer still roamed through the forests, unmolested as yet by the ambitious sportsman, and wild game furnished the few inhabitants with their supply of meat. Himself a young, energetic and robust man, he was well fitted for the pioneer's arduous work. Entering with energy upon the task of securing a homestead, he made an effort to take up a claim near Joliet, but the condition of the land grants rendered it impossible to do so. About 1835 he built the house that is now occupied by his widow, and two terms of schools were taught in one of its rooms, which he tendered for that purpose. He bought a tract of land in Joliet Township, which he cleared and improved, and afterward he engaged in its cultivation until advancing years rendered manual labor no longer advisable. He also owned and used for gardening purposes a block of ground surrounding his city residence. In addition to his other work he was interested in contracting and building, and through his varied occupations he gained a competency that enabled him to spend the twilight of his useful life in quiet comfort.

At the foot of Mount Monadnock, in the village of Jaffrey, N. H., there long stood a house that was large and elegant for its day and was



known as The Ark. Opposite that residence stood the birthplace of Nehemiah Hobart Cutter, who was born March 12, 1805. The ancestry of the family was traced back to Richard Cutter, who came from Newcastle-on-the-Tyne, England, and settled at Cambridge, Mass., in 1640, afterward engaging in copper manufacturing and becoming a large land owner. Joseph Cutter was the first of the family to settle at Jaffrey. Capt. Joseph Cutter, Jr., who was born in New Hampshire, followed farm pursuits in that state and built the property to which he gave the unique name of The Ark. He married Phœbe, daughter of Capt. James and Sarah (Lamson) Gage; she attained an advanced age, being almost ninety-two at the time of her death. One of her sons, Samuel T., who came west in an early day and settled in Chicago, is now living in Joliet.

The eldest of the children was our subject. He was educated in the Jaffrey schools and Amherst Academy. For some time he taught school, during winters, in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York, devoting the intervening summers to the carpenter's trade. On coming west he established his home in Joliet, with the early growth of which he was intimately identified. He was a man of robust constitution and continued to work actively until he was more than eighty years of age. Besides his private interests, he took part in local affairs, and was elected one of the first aldermen of Joliet, serving for several terms. While serving as school inspector he labored to advance the welfare of the public schools. He was very advanced in his opinions as to what instruction should be given in our free schools, and favored not only the ordinary branches, but also singing, drawing, manual training, etc. At the time of the building of the Rock Island Railroad he served as a member of the commission of appraisers and was much interested in the success of the road. With his mental and physical faculties preserved to a remarkable degree, he retained his health and vigor until two weeks before his death. He passed away March 17, 1897, at the age of ninety-two years and five days.

The first marriage of Mr. Cutter united him

with Rebecca Bailey, a daughter of Submit and Phœbe (Rugg) Bailey; she was born in East Hampton, Mass., and died in Joliet February 15, 1884. Four years later Mr. Cutter married Miss Eliza H. Gage, who was born in Jaffrey, N. H., a daughter of Jonathan and Hannah (Worcester) Gage, also natives of that town. Her grandfather, James Gage, was born in Amherst, Mass., in 1736, and in 1779 settled near Jaffrey, where he improved a farm. He was a man of honor and ability and filled many offices of trust. For some time he was captain of the New Hampshire militia. In religion he was a Congregationalist. His wife was Sarah, daughter of Samuel and Abigail (Briant) Lamson. He was a son of Thomas Gage, who was born in Bradford, Mass., and married Phœbe Fry. The founder of the family in America was John Gage, who settled near Boston in 1633.

The youngest of ten children, Jonathan Gage spent many years of his life at the old Jaffrey homestead, which being at the terminus of a long lane, was known as the End of the Road. On his retirement from business cares he moved to Fitzwilliam, where he died March 18, 1868. In religious faith he was a Universalist. He married a daughter of William and Hannah (Frost) Worcester, the former of whom, a native of Tewksbury, settled in Jaffrey in 1776. He was a son of Moses Worcester, who was born in Tewksbury and spent his entire life there. Mrs. Hannah (Worcester) Gage was next to the oldest among seven children; she was born in Jaffrey and died in Fitzwilliam, when seventy years of age. The founder of the Worcester family in America, Rev. William Worcester, from whom Mrs. Cutter is the tenth generation in descent, came from England and held the pastorate of the Salisbury church between 1638 and 1640, later being similarly engaged in other Massachusetts towns until he died. The family of which Mrs. Cutter is a member consisted originally of ten children, namely: James, who died in Charlestown, Mass.; Jonathan, who died at four years of age; William, who died during a visit in New York state; Mrs. Nancy Worcester, of Pittsfield, Mass.; Abner, who died in Fitzwilliam; Joseph,

who died in Hartford, Conn.; Mary, who makes her home with Mrs. Cutter; J. Alonzo, who died in Bozeman, Mont., in 1897; Sarah, who resides with Mrs. Cutter; and Eliza H., Mrs. Cutter. The last named received an excellent education in Melville Academy, after which she followed educational work for many years, principally in Jaffrey, Fitzwilliam (N. H.) and Pittsfield, Mass. For a long time she was an active worker with the Good Templars and she has also been deeply interested in, and identified with, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. In political sentiment she is a staunch Prohibitionist, believing the liquor traffic to be the greatest curse of our age and country. In religion she is a member of Central Presbyterian Church.

**H**ON. JOHN W. ARNOLD, one of the county's pioneers, was born in White Creek, Washington County, N. Y., February 14, 1842. His father, John H. Arnold, was born in Bennington, Vt., in 1808, and in young manhood went to New York state, where he was engaged as farmer, merchant and hotel-keeper. Under President Pierce he served as postmaster of Schaghticoke, an office near Troy, N. Y. In 1855 he came to Illinois and settled at Lockport, where he opened a general store. He continued in business until 1868, when he retired from active cares. During the Civil war he assisted in raising the One Hundredth Illinois Regiment. An influential Democrat, he served as supervisor and justice of the peace for several years, and was a leader among the people of his day. His life was prolonged to the age of eighty-nine years. He was a son of John Arnold, who was born in Rhode Island and served in the Revolutionary war. The family history dates in this country back to the early part of the seventeenth century, when the first of the name came from England.

The mother of our subject was Lucretia (Vail) Arnold, a native of Vermont, of Irish extraction, her grandfather, Jonathan Vail, a Quaker, hav-

ing come from Ireland in an early day. She lived to be about seventy-five years of age, and, with her husband, was for years a faithful member of the Congregational Church of Lockport. Of their seven children, George, the eldest, came to Lockport in 1854 and for twenty years engaged in the mercantile business. For some years he also served as sheriff of this county. At the time the family settled in Lockport our subject was a boy of thirteen years. In September, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Fourth Illinois Cavalry, and served for a year in that regiment. Next he joined the Chicago Mercantile Battery, in which he served for three years. Among the battles in which he took part were those of Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh, Cedar, Oxford, Vicksburg, Haines' Bluff, Arkansas Post, Port Gibson, Black River Bridge, Champion Hills, the charge on Vicksburg and the siege of that city. At the battle of Sabine Cross Roads, La., April 8, 1864, he was taken prisoner, and sent to Camp Ford, Tex., where he remained for fourteen months. During that time he once escaped from prison, but was recaptured after thirty days and taken back. In May, 1865, he was released from prison, and the following month was mustered out at New Orleans and honorably discharged. The only injury that he received while in the army was a gunshot wound in the right cheek, the marks of which he will carry to the grave; this was at the charge upon Vicksburg.

After returning home Mr. Arnold carried on a mercantile business for several years. December 22, 1869, he married Miss Abbie L. Mathewson, who was born in Chicago, June 14, 1845, a daughter of Artemus J. and Julia A. (Miner) Mathewson. Her father was born in Walworth, Wayne County, N. Y., July 25, 1816, and spent his boyhood days on a farm. After studying civil engineering for some years, in 1837 he went to Chicago and secured employment at his chosen occupation. He was one of the engineers on the Illinois and Michigan canal. Later he assisted in surveying the railroad from Omaha to Salt Lake. In 1844 he established his home in Lockport. During later years he acted as county surveyor and was also connected with the canal



until its completion, being auditor of the board for some time. His marriage, in 1844, united him with Julia A. Miner, who was born in Bristol, Ontario County, N. Y., July 6, 1823, a daughter of Enoch W. and Lorinda (Guild) Miner, whom she accompanied to Chicago in 1837. Her father later was one of the contractors on the Illinois and Michigan canal and after the completion of his work on the canal he moved to Burlington, Wis., where his wife died. After her death he came to Lockport to make his home and here died at seventy-six years of age. His father, Amos Miner, who was a member of a pioneer New England family, served in the Revolutionary war and was wounded in the shoulder, which disabled him for further service. Mrs. Arnold was one of three daughters, of whom the second, Isabella, died in infancy; and the third, Dora A., is the wife of William J. Gooding, of Chicago, a member of an old Lockport family.

Of the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, the twins, Julius and Julia, were born July 22, 1874; the daughter died July 13, 1888, and the son, March 4, 1895. The only living child, John William, Jr., was born December 29, 1870, and is engaged in the real-estate and insurance business in Chicago. Mrs. Arnold has been connected with the Congregational Church since 1868 and has been warmly interested in religious work.

From 1865 to 1895 Mr. Arnold carried on a mercantile business. During that time he held the office of supervisor for one term, resigning as postmaster (a position that he held from 1888 to 1890) in order to accept the office of supervisor. Shortly afterward he was elected to the state senate, where, as in his other positions, he advocated measures for the benefit of the people. Among the measures he supported were the truck store bill and gross weight coal bill for the miners of Illinois. He was chairman of the military, waterways and drainage committees, which materially aided the fruition of the Drainage canal. February 20, 1894, during the second administration of President Cleveland, he was appointed United States marshal of the northern district of Illinois, and held that position at the time of the

Debs strike in Chicago. After four years of service he retired from the office. At this writing he is engaged in the real-estate and loan business at No. 90 Washington street, Chicago, but still makes his home in Lockport. He is a charter member of the Grand Army post at this place, and has been its commander.

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**J**OHAN HIBNER. Jackson Township has won an enviable reputation as a prosperous farming community, and this reputation has been established through the energy of such farmers as Mr. Hibner. For years he has been prominently connected with the development of the township and with its advancement as a farming region. Coming here in August, 1848, he purchased an eighty-acre tract where he has since made his home. During his first winter in this locality he lived in a log shanty, about 10x12 feet, but in the spring he built a comfortable house. After he had paid for his land and for a cow he had but fifty cents left. However, deer and other game abounded, and thus the family were supplied with all the meat necessary, while the other necessities were raised on the land. As the years passed by Mr. Hibner prospered. He kept adding to his farm until his place numbered something more than one thousand acres, but he has given his children considerable property and has in that way reduced his holdings to over seven hundred acres. Although he had few advantages other than those he made for himself, he met with remarkable success, and is now one of the well-to-do farmers of the county, while at the same time he is one of the most highly respected as well.

The sole survivor of the eight children of John and Jane (Caldwell) Hibner, the subject of this sketch was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, September 14, 1804. His father, who was born in Peekskill, N. Y., about 1768, grew to manhood there, then went to Ohio and worked as a farm hand in the Miami bottoms. Next, settling in Guernsey County, he took up a claim of one hun-



dred and sixty acres, and shortly after was married. At the breaking out of the war of 1812 he enlisted in the service and took part in the famous thirteen-days' siege of Forts Meigs, Defiance and Wayne. When the troops marched away from the fort he was ill with camp fever and was left behind. Later, recovering somewhat, he started for home; for days he wandered through the forests and over the prairies without food; he asked for something to eat at an Indian camp, but was refused. However, at last he reached home in safety.

In 1814 our subject's father removed to Richland County, where he remained until 1847, meantime acquiring about seven hundred acres of land. During the last-named year he removed to St. Francis County, Mo. In the spring of 1848 he came to Illinois, and after spending the summer on a farm ten miles up the river from Wilmington, he bought three eighty-acre tracts in Jackson Township and settled on one of these, four miles southwest of Joliet. There he resided until his death, September 23, 1865, at which time he owned more than six hundred acres of land. In some respects he was eccentric. One of his peculiarities was his distrust of banks. He always kept his money in a safe at home. At one time he was robbed of \$50,000 and was so seriously wounded by the robbers that he died from the effects of the shock and the wounds one month afterward. His father, who was a native of Germany, died in early manhood, and his mother, who was Sarah Jones, afterward married Abraham Williams, a brother of David Williams, one of the men who captured Major Andre. Two of her brothers, James and Ben Jones, enlisted in the Revolutionary war and went to the front. They were never afterward heard of, and it was supposed that they fell in battle. Her father, Philip Jones, was a wealthy man and owned one hundred and sixty acres in what is now the heart of New York City, besides numerous other pieces of property. When the war with England broke out a tory falsely reported that he was furnishing supplies to the English army; for this reason his farms were taken from him and never afterward restored.

Our subject's mother was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, of Scotch ancestry. She grew to womanhood in her native county and afterward accompanied her mother and three other children to America. Our subject was wholly without educational advantages when he was young. His entire attendance at school was limited to eighteen evenings spent at a night school. From his earliest recollections he was obliged to work hard for his support, and his youth was one round of toil, unlivened by the usual sports of boyhood. He remained at home until his marriage, which event united him, April 6, 1837, with Miss Nancy A. Kurtz, a daughter of Christopher and Nancy (Lowe) Kurtz, of Pennsylvania-Dutch ancestry, and residents of York County, Pa., where she was born.

After his marriage Mr. Hibner bought eighty acres in Richland County from his father. Upon it he settled and there remained until 1847, when he moved to St. Francis County, Mo. In the spring of 1848 he started north with his family and brother Francis, going as far as Winnebago Lake, where he bought land. Two months later his brother died. Our subject entered two quarter-sections of land about midway between Green Bay and Oshkosh. Later the county seat of Appleton was located on his farm and he sold his land, but was cheated out of his money. In August, 1848, he came to Will County and purchased an eighty-acre tract, which forms the nucleus of the large possessions he has since acquired. He has proved himself to be an excellent manager, and although his life has been spared far beyond the usual allotment of years, he still preserves his interest in affairs and shows the keen business traits that characterized him years ago. He is remarkably well preserved, and a stranger to whom his real age was unknown would easily mistake him for a man not more than seventy-five or eighty. In politics he is a Democrat.

After a happy wedded life of sixty-two years Mr. Hibner suffered a deep bereavement in the death of his wife, who passed away October 13, 1899, aged eighty-two years, eleven months and thirteen days. She was a faithful member of the

Methodist Episcopal Church and a lady of sincere Christian character. Fourteen children had been born of their union, and all but two are still living. Elizabeth is the wife of James Ralph, a farmer of this county; George W. and Francis A. are farmers, the former in Grundy County, the latter in Will County; Jane is the wife of E. Price, a machinist of Joliet; James C., David and Martin E. are farmers in Grundy County; Nancy A. is the widow of T. S. Shimmin and keeps house for her father; Sarah A. married Peter Christensen, a farmer of Will County; John W. and William A. are farmers in this county; and Lucinda A. is the wife of James A. Hemphill, a farmer of this county.

**F**RANK W. SEARLES, M. D., a successful practicing physician and surgeon of New Lenox, was born in Homer Township, this county, March 14, 1852. His father, Franklin Searles, was born in New York, of German descent, went from the east to California at the time of the gold excitement in 1849, and for one and one-half years he remained on the Pacific coast successfully engaged in mining. On his return east in 1851 he invested the money he had made by mining in the purchase of a farm in New Lenox Township, Will County, Ill., where he devoted himself to farm pursuits and the management of an apiary. He was a practical man in the raising and breeding of bees, and was so successful that often he shipped as much as one ton of honey in a single shipment. His death occurred on his homestead May 12, 1887, when he was fifty-nine years of age. Two children, our subject and Agnes, deceased, were born of

his marriage to Emily White, of Ohio, who is still living and makes her home with her son. The history of her family is traced back to Peregrine White, the first white child born in Massachusetts, and a member of good old Puritan stock. In the possession of the family is a hand loom that was brought over in the "Mayflower." During the war of 1812, when Indians were dangerous and imperiled the lives of the white settlers, her grandmother was hidden for safety in a hollow tree, which was so large that she had her spinning wheel put in it and spun yarn while hiding.

The education of Dr. Searles was obtained in the Englewood high school, Illinois State University and the Chicago Medical College (now the Northwestern University Medical School). In 1877 he graduated with the degree of M. D. Returning to his native county, he opened an office in New Lenox, where he has since engaged in practice, with the exception of one year in Wisconsin. In his profession he has been quite successful, and is recognized as a skillful physician, who is accurate in the diagnosis of disease and successful in its treatment. Politically he is a believer in Republican principles. In 1878 he was elected county coroner, and he has also served as a member of the school board for several years. While he is interested in local political matters, he does not desire office, preferring to give his attention exclusively to professional duties. He is a member of the Will County Medical Association. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and Lockport Lodge No. 534, A. F. & A. M., in which he is past master. By his marriage in 1878, to Etta Morse, he has two children now living, Ella A. and Howard W., and has lost two sons, William Lloyd, who died at the age of nine years, and Frank, who died at six months.







*Geo. M. Hallenback*

Photo by Benensohn, Yorkville, Ill.

## HON. GEORGE MATTHIAS HOLLENBACK.

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**H**ON. GEORGE MATTHIAS HOLLENBACK, now of Aurora, bears the distinction of having been the first white child born in what is now Kendall County. His father, George, born in Marion County, W. Va., in the year 1792, was a son of George, whose father, John, was born in the kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1719. John Hollenback was the second son of George Hollenback (or Hollebaugh, as he was called by his neighbors), who died July 28, 1736, in New Hanover, Montgomery County, Pa. Prior to 1720 he came to America, with his parents, and about the year 1740 he was living in Jonestown, Pa., where he married Eleanor Jones, of Welsh descent. He died in Martinsburg, Va., in 1793. Of his sons, Matthias became prominent in the history of the state, and was a survivor of the Wyoming massacre. For many years he was associate judge of Luzerne County.

George, the eldest son, was born about 1744, and when a youth was apprenticed to a carpenter, with whom he served until twenty-one years old. In 1772 he married Hannah Barton. After his marriage he removed to Martinsburg, Va., and there his family remained while he was serving in the Revolutionary war, he being under Gen. Charles Lee in the Jersey campaigns. Later he became a resident of Uniontown, Pa., and when General Washington visited that place in 1784 he left many relics he had gathered from the field of Braddock's defeat. About 1792 he located near Prickett's Fort, in Virginia, where he remained until 1807, then removing to Muskingum County, Ohio. He died June 28, 1824.

The ninth of eleven children, George Hollenback (2d) was very vigorous physically and of

very resolute will, well able to cope with the vicissitudes of pioneer life. He served in the war of 1812, for which he received one hundred and sixty acres of land in later life. June 15, 1817, he married Sophia, daughter of John and Mary (Reid) Sidle. John Reid, a brother of Mary, was grandfather of Gen. Q. A. Gillmore, a distinguished Union officer, who conducted the bombardment of Fort Sumter and the city of Charleston. After his marriage Mr. Hollenback conducted his father-in-law's mill and also engaged in farming. In the fall of 1829 he started west, accompanied by his wife and five children. They traveled in a covered wagon, taking with them several cows and their limited household possessions. Their way lay through an almost trackless country. After several weeks of trial and privation they arrived at Danville, Ill., where friends had located some months before, and with them they passed the winter. In the spring of 1830 they again started out, this time going to the south side of the Illinois River, a few miles from Peru. After a year there Mr. Hollenback concluded that the Fox River country offered better opportunities, so he spent the months of February and March, 1831, in investigating, and came up as far as Oswego. After locating some land in what is now Fox Township he returned for his family, and with them arrived at his future home April 18, 1831. He built a small shanty and made a clearing to get in some crops, then began to put up a log house. Before the house was completed, during a severe storm, September 20, a falling tree demolished the frail shanty. His crop was harvested, the grain being threshed by treading it on the floor, and he and a young daughter took the grist to a mill run by

horse power, the trip taking six weeks. December 1, 1831, his family was increased by the birth of twin children, George M. and Amelia, the former being the first white child born in Kendall County.

The Indian outbreak in May, 1832, caused much distress to the few settlers here. Mr. Hollenback took his family to Fort Beggs (named after the pioneer preacher, Elder Beggs), now the city of Plainfield. He had been warned of the approaching outbreak by an Indian to whom he and his family had showed some kindness. From Fort Beggs they went to Fort Dearborn, returning in the fall to Ohio, where the family spent a year, but Mr. Hollenback came back in the spring to his land and put in a crop. In the summer he again went to Ohio, this time returning with his family. This trip was less exhausting and difficult than the first, as new roads had been constructed and settlers were located all along the line.

The Kendall County homestead consisted of seven hundred acres on sections 14, 15, 22 and 23, Fox Township, one hundred and twenty-five acres of which were of fine timber. The land was not surveyed north of the Indian boundary until 1837, in which year the commission was appointed to establish the state road from Ottawa to Naperville, and, while engaged in this duty, the commissioners made Mr. Hollenback's house a station on the road, and for nearly twenty years a daily line of mail stages ran on the road. While his house was not a hotel, he entertained the passengers and cared for the stock. His wife died February 26, 1861, and he passed away November 23, 1863. He was a man of great firmness of character, large-hearted and thoroughly honest, decided in his convictions, kind to the helpless, and a fine type of the pioneer. Until Fremont's campaign he was a Democrat, but then became a Republican. His children were: John S., deceased; Clark; Mrs. Sarah A. Boyd; David S.; Mary and Philip, both deceased; George M., and his twin sister, Mrs. Amelia Davis; William A., Mrs. Mary J. Moulton, Nelson K. and Hannah Elizabeth LaSure.

The boyhood years of our subject were passed

on the homestead, on the northeast quarter of section 22, Fox Township. He did the work there incident to such a life. He taught school in early life. Determined to fit himself for the study of law, he devoted his spare moments to study and helpful reading. In November, 1856, he was elected clerk of the circuit court. Upon the completion of his term in 1860 he was re-elected, serving another four years. At the end of that time he purchased a farm on section 21, and settled there in March, 1865. In 1875 he rebuilt the residence, making of it a model country home, and there he continued to reside until his removal to Yorkville in 1888.

Active in the Republican party, Mr. Hollenback has done much to guide its policy in this locality. That his services have been appreciated is shown by the fact that he has been called to fill many offices of a responsible nature. In 1868 he was admitted to the bar, and during the same year was appointed master of chancery, an office he filled continuously to 1896, with the exception of two years. During the war he was appointed enrolling officer by Governor Yates. In 1872 he was elected a member of the Twenty-eighth General Assembly. For years he was justice of the peace and he also served two terms as supervisor. In Masonry he is a member of the Royal Arch Chapter.

May 5, 1859, Mr. Hollenback married Julia A., eldest daughter of Daniel and Roxanna (Heath) Woodworth, and a native of Ashtabula County, Ohio. They had one daughter, Stella Louisa, a graduate of the West Aurora high school, and now the wife of Edward Welles, of Wilkesbarre, Pa. In the loss of his wife, who died August 23, 1886, Mr. Hollenback suffered a sad bereavement, for she was a lady of most estimable qualities and noble life. July 24, 1888, he was united in marriage with Frances F. Houghman, of Milwaukee, Wis., widow of Dr. Charles E. Houghman, formerly oculist and aurist of Wisconsin.

The long years of his residence in Kendall County and his active part in its upbuilding, entitle Mr. Hollenback to a high place in the esteem of its residents. He has always stood for



what he considered the best interests of the county and has taken part in movements for its advancement. His interests still continue largely centered here, although he also owns considerable property in Iowa, and has improved real estate in Aurora, where he now makes his home, having moved to that place November 18, 1892.

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**W**ILLIAM WHITFIELD, a pioneer of Kendall County, was born in Lincolnshire, England, November 13, 1814, and died in Fox Township, this county, April 3, 1889. He was a son of Edward and Nancy (Veasey) Whitfield, and a grandson of Thomas Veasey. When a boy he learned the miller's trade under his father, who was both a miller and a farmer. In 1836 he came to America on a sailing vessel that landed in New York. Going to Troy, N.Y., he secured employment as a miller with Merritt & Loveland. From there he went by canal to Rochester, where he was employed in a large mill. Thence he came via the lakes to Detroit, and from that city walked across the country to Chicago and on to Dayton, La Salle County, Ill., where he worked from 1837 to 1845.

In the spring of 1845 Mr. Whitfield came to Fox Township, Kendall County, and purchased one hundred and thirty-two acres of land on section 9. He paid \$1,800 for the property, which was a low price, considering that the land had been partly broken, and was improved with a small house, barn and a saw-mill. On the land a town called Wilkesbarre had been laid out and a few buildings started, but a windstorm had destroyed these buildings and the projectors had then abandoned the enterprise. Mr. Whitfield operated the old mill until its days of usefulness were gone, when he turned his attention to farming. Later he sold the property and bought one hundred and fifty-six acres on sections 10 and 15. Only forty acres of this land had been broken. He brought the tract under cultivation and improved it with buildings. From the first he met with success. At different times he added to his holdings, and at the time of his death owned

eleven hundred acres, all in Fox Township except one piece in Bristol Township. Upon the death of his wife he retired from farm cares, and the remainder of his life was passed in quiet retirement. In politics a Democrat, his party often urged him to accept office, but he never consented to do so. Among the people of his community he stood very high. He was a man of keen judgment and sound common sense, which qualities were important factors in the gaining of success.

June 26, 1845, Mr. Whitfield married Jane Evans, who was born in Huron County, Ohio, August 3, 1826, a daughter of Francis and Mary (Pyatt) Evans; she died January 2, 1882, and was buried in Newark cemetery, Millington, where seven years later the body of her husband was laid beside her. They had eight children, seven of whom are living, namely: George, who is represented in this work; Susan, wife of Ward R. Shaw, whose sketch appears on another page; William, who is living retired in Plano; Francis Edward, whose sketch appears in this volume; Charles B., a farmer on section 29; John M., who cultivates the old homestead; and Martha.

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**J**AMES PEARCE. A prominent and leading citizen of Oswego Township, Mr. Pearce is the worthy representative of an old and highly honored family of Kendall County, being a son of the late Daniel Pearce, who pre-empted a tract of four hundred or more acres of land in Oswego Township in 1832. A native born citizen, his birth occurred on the old Pearce homestead, February 18, 1837. He was reared on the home farm, receiving such limited educational advantages as the pioneer schools of his day afforded. At the age of twenty-one years he was the only son of his parents left at home, his brothers, Isaac and Calvin, having joined the army, with which, as a member of the Fourth Illinois Cavalry, Isaac served until the close of the Civil war, while Calvin was a member of Company A, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Infantry.

Mr. Pearce worked for his brother, William Pearce, for a year before attaining his majority, but afterwards assisted in the management of the home estate until his marriage, when, in the fall of 1873, he bought one hundred and fifty-seven acres of land on section 16, adjoining the parental homestead, living there until 1877. Disposing then of this farm, he removed to Plymouth County, Iowa, where he purchased seventeen hundred acres of raw land, paying from \$6 to \$7 per acre for it. He improved the property, erecting good farm buildings and breaking up much of the land, and engaged in farming and stock-raising for seven years, when he rented the estate and returned with his family to Illinois, not desiring to remain in a region so sparsely settled that the nearest neighbor was twenty-four miles away. Arriving in Aurora in January, 1884, he resided there one year, when he purchased his present farm in Oswego Township, where he has since devoted his time and attention to general farming. His farm is one of the best improved and best equipped of any in the vicinity, having a very fine residence and spacious barns, all fitted and furnished with the most modern conveniences, while he has plenty of machinery of the most improved kinds to successfully carry on his work. He has disposed of a part of his Iowa land, but still owns and rents nine hundred acres.

February 20, 1873, Mr. Pearce married Mary C. Gannon, who was born in New York City November 28, 1852, and when but an infant came with her parents, James and Mary C. (Kearns) Gannon, to Kendall County, where they spent their remaining days, Mr. Gannon's death occurring in February, 1899, and Mrs. Gannon's November 17, 1899. Mr. and Mrs. Pearce have eight children, namely: James N., who was graduated from Northwestern University, and is now a student in the University of Chicago; Grace, a graduate of Jennings Seminary and now a teacher in the public schools of Oswego; Lyman G., who carries on the home farm; Bessie and Daisy, who are graduates of the Aurora high school; Mamie, Sarah and Beulah. Politically Mr. Pearce fraternizes with the

Democratic party, but votes independent of party restrictions. He is deeply interested in local affairs, and for eight years has served as alderman of the village. Fraternally he is a member of Oswego Lodge No. 303, A. F. & A. M., of Oswego, of which he is past master; Aurora Chapter, R. A. M.; and Aurora Commandery, K. T. He is actively connected with the Congregational Church, in which he is serving as deacon.

William Pearce, the half brother of James Pearce, has the distinction of being the oldest living member of the community in which he resides. The eldest son of Daniel Pearce, he was born February 21, 1815, in Ohio, whence, in 1833, he came to Kendall County with his parents, and has since been intimately identified with the agricultural interests of Oswego.

Daniel Pearce was born in Maryland in 1789, a son of Daniel Pearce, Sr., with whom he subsequently removed to Ohio, settling first in Champaign County, where he bought eighty acres of wild land, but later moved to Logan County as a pioneer. In 1832 he came to Illinois, journeying on horseback, and took up four hundred or five hundred acres of wild land near the present home of his son James, in Oswego Township. Going back to Ohio for his family, he returned with an ox-team, driving his cows and sheep along and having often to take the wagons apart to get them across some of the streams, being four weeks and one day on the way. He broke up the sod, improved the land, and carried on general farming under great difficulties, having to haul his grain to Chicago. He was a strong Democrat in politics and a consistent member of the Methodist Church, in which he served as steward. He was first married in Ohio, Elizabeth Johnson becoming his wife. She died in that state, leaving three children, namely: William; John, deceased; and Nancy, now Mrs. John Sanders, of Oswego. His second wife, Sally Burgess, who died in Ohio, bore him two children, neither of whom is now living. By his marriage with Sally Titsworth, his third wife, who died in 1874, the following named children were born: Ezekiel, of Aurora;



Joseph, of Whittemore, Iowa; Elizabeth, deceased; Daniel, of Central City, Neb.; James, the subject of this sketch; Rebecca, now Mrs. William Chattel, of St. Joseph, Mo.; Isaac, of Woonsocket, S. Dak.; and Calvin, who resides on the old homestead.

William Pearce was educated in the old log schoolhouse in Ohio, and when eighteen years of age came with his parents to Oswego, where he at once pre-empted two quarter sections of land, one of which John took when he attained his majority and immediately began its improvement. When twenty-nine years old William built a frame house, into which he and his bride moved, and a part of this is still standing. He carried on general farming, dairying and stock-raising with excellent financial results until 1876, when he gave up active labor, and three years later removed to Oswego, but after living there nine years returned to the farm, which has since been his home, although he sold his land in 1895. In politics he was a Democrat until the nomination of Lincoln for president, and since that time he has voted the Republican ticket. He is a member of the Methodist Church, in which he has served as steward. In 1843 Mr. Pearce married Lois J. Warner, and they became the parents of five children, the first born of whom died in infancy. The others are: Clara A., wife of Alfred Wormley, of Aurora; William W., of Oswego; Ida, wife of Miles Beach, of Aurora; and Lizzie.

**G**EORGE WHITFIELD. There are comparatively few who spend their entire lives as residents of the township where they were born. Such is the record of Mr. Whitfield, who during the more than fifty years of his life has known no other home than the township of Fox, in Kendall County. He was born on the family homestead in this township January 30, 1848, a son of William and Jane (Evans) Whitfield. His father, a native of Lincolnshire, England, born in 1814, came to the United States about 1836, and followed the millwright's trade

for a time in Troy, N. Y. From that place he went to other towns, working wherever he could find employment. Finally he left Detroit, Mich., from which city he walked to Chicago. In the same way he proceeded to Dayton, LaSalle County, where he settled. For some years he remained in that place, but in 1845 removed to Fox Township, Kendall County, and ultimately purchased eleven hundred acres of land on sections 10 and 15. On this place he made his permanent home. During the subsequent years of his life he devoted himself to the improvement of his property, which at the time of his death formed a very valuable homestead and was divided among his heirs. His death occurred in 1889. His wife, whom he married in 1845, was born in Ohio and died in Kendall County in 1882. They were the parents of eight children, of whom seven are living.

On the farm where he was born George Whitfield acquired a thorough knowledge of farming while he was still a youth. He selected agriculture as his occupation and has followed it closely and successfully. When in his twenty-third year he settled on section 15, on a tract of land his grandfather had purchased in 1835; the latter had brought his family, with ten or more other families, to Kendall County while the Indians were still in this region, and had participated in all the dangers and hardships caused by the frequent outbreaks of the savages. The farm which our subject cultivates comprises two hundred and fifty acres, and is improved by various buildings, including a house modern in architecture, a substantial barn, sheds for the stock, etc.

While it cannot be said that Mr. Whitfield is active in politics, yet he keeps posted concerning the issues, national and international, that our age confronts, and has intelligent, carefully-formed opinions concerning important problems. In his political belief he is a Democrat. He favors plans for the benefit of his township and supports projects that will advance the prosperity of his fellow-citizens. His marriage, which occurred in 1878, united him with Josephine, daughter of Matthew and Mary Laufer, who



made their home in Fox Township for about thirty-five years, but now reside in Plano. Mr. and Mrs. Whitfield have two children, Archie J. and Josie D.

**A**NDREW KIRKLAND SCOFIELD. In nothing is Kendall County more fortunate than in having among its citizens a large proportion of capable young farmers, descended from pioneer settlers of the county. Among such is Mr. Scofield, the well-known farmer and stockman of Big Grove Township, and until September, 1900, the owner of a tract of one hundred and seventy acres on section 15. Having spent the greater part of his life in this locality, he has a large circle of acquaintances, all of whom unite in respecting him for his energy, industry and uprightness of character.

On the farm now owned by Samuel Naden, in this township, Mr. Scofield was born July 25, 1861, being a son of Lott and Hannah (Kirkland) Scofield. His father, a native of New York state, came to Kendall County about 1843, when nineteen years of age, and secured employment with Squire Mason in Big Grove Township, continuing on wages until his marriage to a daughter of Andrew Kirkland. The young couple began housekeeping on the place recently owned by their son. Soon afterward they bought land from Garrett Collins, but later purchased the G. F. Kirkland place, becoming in time the owners of three hundred and seventy-five acres, on which Mr. Scofield kept several hundred head each of sheep and swine. Besides this he owned a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and another of one hundred and twenty, making altogether six hundred and fifty acres. Starting in life without capital, with only a pair of stout hands and a willing heart, he became one of the foremost farmers of his township and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of associates.

A strong Republican for years, late in life Lott Scofield identified himself with the Prohibition party. Though he never aspired to any official station he was several times chosen to local offices,

and at one time was nominated for county judge on the independent ticket. His business judgment was good, which fact, combined with his known honesty, led to his selection as executor and administrator in the settlement of estates, as well as arbiter in controversies. He assisted in the organization of the Baptist Church at Lisbon, to which he afterward belonged.

During his later days Mr. Scofield did not engage in active business, leaving to others the management of his farm. For two years he made his home in Denver, Colo., and for a time after returning to Illinois lived in Morris, thence went to Aurora, but finally came back to the old homestead and here died October 6, 1895. His widow is now making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Bertha D. Davenport, wife of Mason Davenport, of Omaha, Neb. In their family were seven sons and three daughters, namely: Charles L., deceased; Henry, a farmer of Lisbon Township; Judson, who is farming in Big Grove Township; Hattie A., whose husband, William I. Stephens, is a commission merchant in Omaha, Neb., and president of the board of exchange there; Ida M., wife of Edwin Fletcher, of Lisbon Township; George, a farmer living near Hoopeston, Ill.; Fred L., who resides in Los Angeles, Cal.; Andrew K.; L. D., a farmer of Fox Township; and Bertha, Mrs. Davenport.

Hiram Scofield, our subject's grandfather, was born and reared in New York state and there married Martha Lott. They came to Illinois and settled in Newark, where he worked at the mason's trade. His latter years were spent with his sons and in retirement from active work. Of his children, Stephen died during his service in the Civil war; Mrs. Hannah Prickett, twice married and twice widowed, is now living in Newark; William, who went west years ago; Lott, who was given his mother's family name; Minor, a soldier of the Civil war, now of California; Horace, living in Wisconsin; and Andrew, a successful mining operator of Los Angeles, Cal.

Upon attaining his majority Andrew K. Scofield went west and spent a year in Iowa and Colorado, after which he returned, and, with a brother, carried on the home place. Next he

rented land in Big Grove Township. March 29, 1888, he married Mary J., daughter of Seth C. and Eliza (Kellogg) Sleezer, early settlers of Big Grove Township, where she was born. By her marriage to Mr. Scofield two children were born, Tracey Lee and Olive Marie.

After their marriage Mr. Scofield and wife began housekeeping on the Allen Randall farm in Big Grove Township. He then bought one hundred and thirty-five acres of his father's place, and since 1893 has resided here, having added to his farm by subsequent purchase. All of the grain raised on his place is used for feed, as he has a large number of stock and devotes special attention to this branch of agriculture. Though devoting himself closely to farm work, he finds time to assist in educational matters, and has served acceptably on the school board, where he proved a reliable and capable director. He and his wife are connected with the Baptist Church of Newark, in which he has been a deacon and trustee for some years, and has also been active in Sunday-school work as assistant superintendent, superintendent and teacher.

**A**LBERT H. SEARS. Plano has no more progressive, energetic business man than Albert H. Sears, who has long been connected with many local enterprises of great importance. He possesses marked ability as a financier, and his sagacity and foresight have led to his success. Many lessons may be gleaned by the rising generation from his history, and a review of his life will prove of deep interest to the public.

At a very early period in the colonial history of America the Sears family came to these shores from England. Major Thomas Sears, the great-grandfather of our subject, was born in Massachusetts, and when the Revolution came on enlisted and fought in behalf of his compatriots, gaining the rank of major in the conflict. He lived in Connecticut for some years, and later

dwelt in New York. His son James, grandfather of Albert H. Sears, was born in the state first named, and at the time the family went to New York he had arrived at maturity. He was numbered among the agriculturists of the Empire state thenceforward.

Upon his homestead in Putnam County the birth of his son Archibald took place, February 23, 1802. For his day he became quite well posted in an educational point of view, and for a number of years conducted schools. In the meantime he spent his leisure hours in studying surveying, which business he found very useful and profitable in the west. In 1836 he made the long trip to Illinois, coming by the canal and lake route, and here he took up six hundred and forty acres of government land in Little Rock Township, Kendall County, and one side of the property extended along the creek about half a mile. He built a log-cabin in the forest and embarked upon his frontier life in earnest, experiencing all the privations and arduous toil that fall to the lot of the pioneer. He devoted the chief portion of his time to surveying, as his services were in great demand by the government. He also acted in the capacity of county surveyor, and surveyed innumerable roads and township lines. Thus he was actively associated with the founding of the county, and in many ways, besides, he manifested his deep interest in its development. As justice of the peace he also accomplished much for his fellow-pioneers, and won the high esteem of all who knew him. For years he raised swine, wheat and corn principally, and was obliged to market those products in Chicago, and thus his money was certainly twice won and earned by the hardest toil.

Soon after the termination of the Civil war he became a resident of Sandwich, where he lived until 1885. In that year he came to Plano, and spent his last days here. His first marriage, to Susan Hadden, was solemnized in June, 1833, and of their seven children only James M. survives. The mother died in the early part of the '40s, and upon the 23d of August, 1850, Mr. Sears married Mrs. Rachel Smith, daughter of David T. and Charlotte (Tarbox) Carver. Of



the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Sears two reside in this county: our subject and Mrs. Mary Henning.

Albert Hollister Sears was born in this county May 14, 1856. In his boyhood he resided with his aunt, Mrs. Shirley E. (Carver) Hollister, much of the time during school terms, in order to take advantage of the superior facilities afforded by Plano. The uncle, J. F. Hollister, a thorough mechanic, and a valued employe of the Deering Harvester Works, of this place, was a great factor in the lad's future life, as through him he became interested in the business of manufacturing farm implements. Mr. Hollister's ingenuity and keenness of mind were of untold value to the Deering Company, and, indeed, he was practically the inventor of the first successful automatic grain-binders made in the Deering plant. Through his uncle's influence Mr. Sears obtained a position with the same company and continued with the firm many years, some of the time as foreman of the shipping department, and for a period as a traveling salesman.

Having gained experience in the business and become conversant with the demands of the trade, Mr. Sears embarked in the retail hardware and implement business for himself. In 1883 he built the two-story and basement brick building, 48x104 feet in dimensions, on the corner of Main and High streets. This large, substantially built structure is devoted exclusively to his own business enterprises, which are prospering. In connection with his other flourishing concerns he established a bank here, and, for the accommodation of the public, has had fine safety deposit vaults made in the building. Having increased his trade as a hardware merchant to truly remarkable proportions, he was obliged to build another storeroom on the west, and now handles a full line of carriages, wagons and farm implements, and, in addition to all this, he has conducted a coal-yard for the past fifteen years.

When Mr. Deering removed his works from Plano, in 1880, Mr. Sears was one of the organizers of the Plano Manufacturing Company, of which he became the superintendent. When Mr.

Deering removed, as before mentioned, Mr. Sears purchased the fine old manufacturing plant and the beautiful residence which had been the home of that gentleman. The shop property he turned over to the Plano Manufacturing Company upon its organization. Under his able superintendency the business was extended wonderfully year by year. When the company finally removed to a new site in West Pullman, Ill., Mr. Sears commenced manufacturing cultivators and harrows in the old steel works plant, and in 1898 he bought the factory, where he now conducts what has become known far and wide as the Sears Manufacturing Works. A large department of the plant is devoted to the manufacture of metal beds, and a force of fifty men is steadily employed. Mr. Sears' interests are not confined to this particular line of business, for he has become an extensive dealer in real estate, and owns at the present time twenty-five houses in Plano, besides business blocks, a farm of two hundred acres in this county, and between fifteen and twenty thousand acres of land in Nebraska, some unimproved and some in a high state of cultivation. He has been occupied in the building of many houses and stores in Plano, and to his energy and confidence in the future of this town much of its progress is unquestionably due. He takes a patriotic pride and interest in the general welfare and progress of his native town, and neglects no duty as a citizen in promoting its prosperity. Politically he is affiliated with the Republican party, though he is in no sense an office-holder or politician.

The marriage of Mr. Sears and Miss Ella Foster, daughter of La Fayette and Maryetta Foster, of Plano, took place November 12, 1879. Their eldest child, Mamie, died at the age of three years; Alice M., the only one living, was born on New Year's day, 1887. Mrs. Sears' parents were numbered among the early settlers of Kendall County, and for many years they dwelt upon a good homestead in this township, about two miles north of Plano. The Foster family came to this locality from New York state, where for some generations they were influential and prosperous.







*Geo. D. Fayou*

## GEORGE STILES FAXON.

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**G**EORGE STILES FAXON. From his earliest recollections George S. Faxon, postmaster at Plano, has been closely associated with Kendall County and has had its interests deeply at heart. Though the numerous demands of his various business enterprises have occupied the greater share of his time and attention, he yet has devoted many an hour and day to public affairs, and perhaps not the least important of his services on behalf of his fellow-citizens was that of raising funds and materially assisting in the organization of the present Kendall County Fair Association. He served as a member of its board of directors two terms and succeeded in placing it on a flourishing basis.

Before entering more fully upon the life-history of our subject a few facts relating to his family may be of interest to his many friends here and elsewhere, and in the biography of his elder brother, the Hon. E. W. Faxon, appearing elsewhere in this work, a detailed account of their ancestors is given. Thomas Faxon, the founder of the family in this country, became a resident of New England prior to 1647, as in that year the marriage of his daughter, Joanna, was celebrated, according to the records of the town of Dedham, Mass. Thomas, Jr., and Richard, sons of Thomas and Joan Faxon, accompanied them to America when young, and Thomas, Jr., died, leaving no descendants, and thus through Richard Faxon the name was handed down. Thomas Faxon, Sr., purchased four hundred and fifty acres, on a portion of which the town of Braintree, Mass., now stands, and later he acquired

other property and was classed among the wealthy men of the colony in those days. Richard Faxon, as the records show, was born in England about 1630, and Josiah, his eldest son, one of thirteen children, was the father of Josiah, born September 8, 1660, in Braintree, Mass. He wedded Mehitabel, daughter of Edward and Lydia Adams, and eight children were born to them. He was a man of influence in his community, and in 1722 he served as a selectman. To his posterity he left a large estate, and Thomas, his second son, through whom this line is traced, was born in Braintree February 8, 1692, and, like his forefathers, he followed agricultural pursuits. He married Ruth Webb, May 22, 1716, and six children blessed their union. He died March 19, 1729. His fifth child, Thomas, born February 19, 1724, was small in stature, but, as the old records testify, his patriotism was out of proportion to his size, and when the Revolutionary war came on he served with credit as a private in Capt. Josiah Stebbins' company, Col. David Wells being in command of the regiment. Later he was placed in a company which represented the town of Deerfield, Mass., chiefly, and at that time he had reached his fifty-seventh year. He married Joanna Allen August 24, 1749, and of their eleven children the fourth, Jacob, was born in Braintree September 25, 1757. He also was a Revolutionary soldier, and in his declining days was granted a pension by the government. He was a mason by trade, and soon after his marriage he removed to New York. His marriage to Lydia, daughter of Capt. Henry and Ruth



(Wells) Stiles, took place February 4, 1781. The third child of this union was Walter Stiles, born April 2, 1785. He followed his trade as a mason and also engaged in farming at Greenwich, N. Y. He served in the war of 1812. He was twice married, and of the numerous children born to him and his second wife, Mary Dyer (whom he wedded December 10, 1810), the second bore the father's name.

Walter Stiles Faxon, Jr., was born in Greenwich, N. Y., September 9, 1812. He learned his father's trade, and in 1843 came to Illinois, where he purchased about two hundred acres of government land. This place, situated in Little Rock Township, was improved by him until it was ranked among the best in the county. Politically he was a Republican, helping to organize that party, and for several years held local offices. For decades he was numbered among the members of the Baptist denomination. By his marriage to Mrs. Zelia M. Valentine seven children were born, namely: Edgar W., Charles G., George S., Frank E., Zelia M., Hattie B. and Leroy M. The mother died April 18, 1874, and subsequently the father married Marian Newell, who departed this life November 21, 1882.

George S. Faxon, the third of the family, was born in this township April 21, 1861, and in his youth he pursued his studies in the common country schools. He became perfectly familiar with farming in its various departments, and, after reaching maturity, he was one of the leaders in the movement to organize the Farmers' Alliance in this locality. He was chosen as a delegate from the local lodge to the state convention, was there made a member of the state committee of the same, and for two years held the position of state purchasing agent. Remaining on the old homestead and attending to its cultivation, he yet found his time well encroached upon by outside duties. Besides running the home farm of a quarter section he generally leased one hundred acres or more for some years.

In March, 1897, Mr. Faxon purchased a half interest in the *Kendall County News* of his brother, Hon. Edgar W. Faxon, and since that time has edited the paper, which is one of the

leading journals of northern Illinois. It is an eight-page, six-column paper, devoted to the welfare of this town and the county, and in every respect it is a wide-awake, newsy sheet, having a circulation of fourteen or fifteen hundred. The brothers also publish the *Lisbon Comet*, a paper of the same size and of almost equal popularity. In October, 1898, our subject removed to Plano, where he purchased his present residence, besides which he owns another pleasant house on Main street. Here he has assisted in the organization of numerous local enterprises, bearing his part in whatever makes for the good of the public. He is a director of the Blackhawk Club and is a great favorite in society. For two terms he has served in the capacity of junior warden of Sunbeam Lodge No. 428, A. F. & A. M., and in the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America he also occupies a minor office. He is a Republican of no uncertain stripe, and his influence as a factor in local politics is freely conceded. He has faithfully labored for the good of the party as a member of the county central committee, and at the time he was honored by appointment to his present position—that of postmaster of Plano—he was serving as secretary of the committee just mentioned. Since he entered upon his new duties as postmaster, March 9, 1898, he has made a good record, and has increased his personal popularity with the people, for he takes great pains to meet their wishes. Frequently he has been called upon to act as a delegate to local and county conventions of his party, and when his business permits he attends congressional and state conventions as well. At the time that Major McKinley was brought forward as a candidate for the presidential chair Mr. Faxon was a member of the renowned Marquette Club, of Chicago, which labored effectively for the man destined to become our chief executive.

Mr. Faxon was married December 10, 1886, to Miss Jewella S. Evans, a native of Plano, and daughter of Noah and Elizabeth Maria (Swift) Evans, natives of South Carolina and New York, respectively. Mr. Evans came to Little Rock Township in 1833, and thus is the pioneer surviving resident of the township. His father,

David Evans, came with the son, the latter then being only seven years old. Mr. and Mrs. Faxon have a son, christened Orson Evans Faxon.

**C**HARLES D. SOUTHWICK, a retired farmer residing on section 36, Fox Township, Kendall County, owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, a part of which lies in this township, the remainder being in Mission Township, LaSalle County. He was born in Plattsburg, Clinton County, N. Y., April 11, 1835, the only son of Amos P. and Maria (Finch) Southwick, natives of the same county. He and his sister Juliet were the only children in the family; the latter is now the wife of Myron Reynolds, of Newark.

About 1836 the family moved to Chautauqua County, N. Y., but a year later came via team to Illinois, reaching Ottawa in the fall of 1837. The spring of the next year found them in Fox Township, Kendall County, where the father rented land eight years. With the savings of these years he bought forty acres, now owned by his son. Settling upon this place, he continued to reside there until his death, March 2, 1897. Farming was his principal occupation throughout life, but in early days he also did considerable teaming, hauling produce (mostly pork and grain) to the Chicago market, and bringing merchandise back. In politics he was first a Whig, then a Republican. He was an early member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Newark and served upon its official board.

Being only two and one-half years of age when the family came to Kendall County, our subject recalls no other home than Fox Township. When a boy he attended the primitive schools of the day, but, as he could not often be spared from work, his education has been gained principally from observation, experience and self-culture. October 7, 1857, he married Charlotte A., daughter of Timothy and Phoebe (Dyer) Weeks, natives of New Hampshire. She was born August 18, 1839, at Tilton (then called Sandburton Bridge), N. H., and in 1855 accompanied her

parents to Illinois, settling near Newark. She was fifth among seven children, the others being Oscar S., of Newark; Mary, wife of Emerson Barrows, of Sandwich, Ill.; Charles A., who deals in horses, making his home at Sandwich; Thuey A., Mrs. Newell P. George, of Livingston County, Ill.; John A., who enlisted in the Ninety-sixth Illinois Infantry, and served as bugler until he died at Shepherdsville, Ky.; and George S., who is head clerk with Browning & King, of Chicago.

After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Southwick commenced housekeeping in the village of Newark, while he engaged in farming and teaming in the vicinity. He has followed a general line of teaming until recently, but now lives retired, residing on the old homestead. A radical Republican in politics, during the early days of that party he gave his support steadfastly to its principles. His first vote was cast for the "Pathfinder," John C. Fremont. At the time of the Blaine and Logan campaign and the organization of the Prohibition party he transferred his allegiance to the new organization, being an ardent believer in the temperance cause. In 1887 he hauled from Chicago the flag pole that has since stood in the village of Newark, and that, on account of its great height (one hundred and fourteen feet), has attracted much attention. He has frequently been a delegate to county, state and congressional conventions of the Prohibition party, and has been for years a member of the county central committee.

The oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Southwick is William D., who owns his grandfather Southwick's old homestead, adjoining his father's place. He was born November 11, 1858, and was married, at Lawrence, Mass., on Christmas day of 1882, to Ada, daughter of Joseph G. and Mary (Chamberlain) Weeks, of that place. They have two children, Mayo P. and Belle V. In politics William D. Southwick is a Republican. He is an official member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

The second son of our subject, Pliny C. Southwick, was born August 6, 1862, and married Sarah, daughter of Peter A. Misner. The name



of Pliny Southwick is well known as that of the inventor of the Southwick hay press, manufactured by the Sandwich Manufacturing Company, and used in every hay-growing section of the United States.

The older daughter of Mr. Southwick is Phoebe M., who was born April 4, 1868, and is now the wife of Ellery Barber, of Sandwich, Ill. The younger daughter, Lottie, was born August 31, 1874, and died March 2, 1891, while a student at Dixon College.

**LOUIS WEEKS.** One of the principal industries of Kendall County is the live-stock business, which many farmers have found to be a profitable adjunct to the raising of cereals. Mr. Weeks has for some years been engaged in stock-raising, in addition to general farming, and operates a farm adjoining the village of Newark. In the fall of 1898 he assisted in the organization of the Millington Live Stock Company, of which he is now a member, his partners being Samuel Naden and W. A. Manchester, both of Newark. Its success and high standing are due to the fact that its members are practical, experienced and reliable stockmen, who have a thorough knowledge of the business, and buy over a large territory.

A son of Samuel and Sarah (Fosse) Weeks, natives of Massachusetts and residents of Newark, Ill., Louis Weeks was born in Geneseo, Ill., November 17, 1861. The family came to Kendall County when he was four years of age and settled in Big Grove Township, but soon removed to the village of Newark, where he attended the public schools until he was sixteen. Later he spent two years in Lake Forest high school. On his return to Newark he took up farm work, which he followed for two years and then accepted a clerkship with a business house in Newark, remaining there for a year. November 19, 1882, he married Miss Carrie Ruble, daughter of John

and Lydia (Courtright) Ruble, natives respectively of Indiana and Pennsylvania and now residents of South Dakota, having gone there from Kendall County.

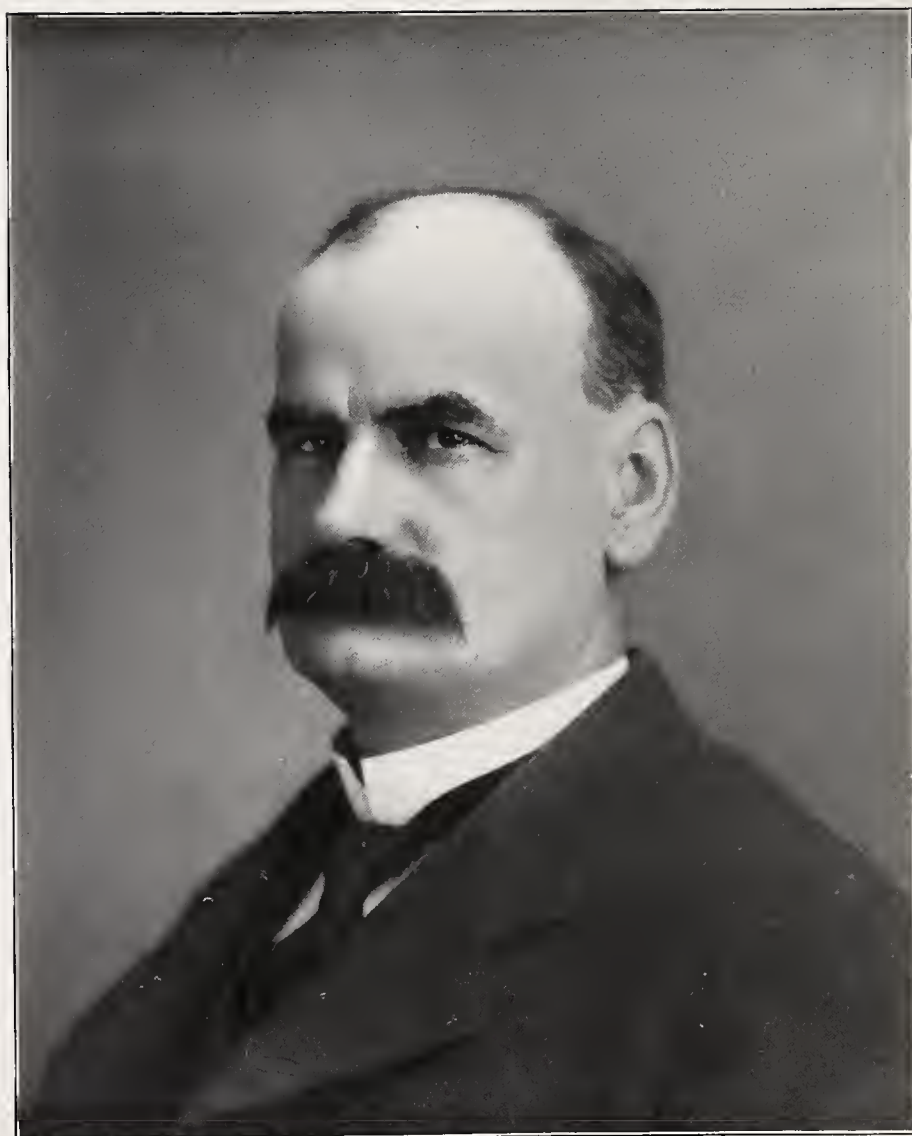
For a year after his marriage Mr. Weeks was employed in the machine shops at Plano, Ill. He and his wife then joined Mr. Ruble in Hanson County, S. Dak. There he bought one hundred and sixty acres and engaged in farming. His experience in that region was most discouraging. During the five years he spent there he succeeded in raising only one crop. The outlook was dark. He had no money and could not dispose of his property for anything like the sum he had invested in it. Finally, however, he managed to sell out for enough to pay his own expenses back to Illinois. This unfortunate experience might have discouraged and disheartened a man less brave than Mr. Weeks, but he refused to permit it to daunt his determination to succeed. Bravely he set himself to the task of getting a second start. For eighteen months he worked for wages, as a farm hand, after which he spent a similar period with Mr. Van Duser in a store, and then rented the farm of two hundred and thirty acres owned by Mrs. Courtwright, and on this place, by good management, he has retrieved his losses in South Dakota and gained a foothold in the business world. His indomitable energy has enabled him to surmount obstacles that would have discouraged many a man.

On the Republican ticket, Mr. Weeks has been elected a member of the village board. He has also been deputy assessor of his township, and in 1900 served as census enumerator. He is a charter member of the local camp, Modern Woodmen of America, in which he has filled several offices. For some time he has been steward of the Methodist Episcopal Church and superintendent of and a teacher in the Sunday-school.

Mr. Weeks is the only member of his father's family remaining in Kendall County.







*S. W. Johnson.*

Photo by Benensohn, Yorkville, Ill.

## SHELDON WHEELER JOHNSON.

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SHELDON WHEELER JOHNSON, manager of the Kendall Co-operative Creamery Company and a well-known stockman of Na-au-say Township, was born December 11, 1855, and is a son of the late Oliver C. Johnson. His education was begun in the public schools and has since been carried on through observation, habits of thoughtful reading and experience in the business world. While he was still young, his father needing his help, he took up the oversight of the home place and carried it on until 1880. He then removed to a tract just east of his present farm and there remained ten years, in 1899 selling the eastern half and buying the eighty acres where he now resides. The land was very rich, but so marshy that it could not be plowed. He tilled it and made a fine farm of the land, increasing its value in about eight years from \$40 to \$80 per acre, selling it at the last-named price, although there was no building on that part of the property. This improvement in value is the result of the use of four thousand rods of tiling. In 1890 he was laughed at for buying the place, but subsequent events have proved the wisdom of his judgment, and his ten years of experience here have proved most profitable to him. His specialty has been the raising of standard-bred horses, cattle and hogs, and the grain raised on the farm is used wholly for feed.

October 3, 1894, the Kendall Co-operative Creamery Company was chartered, one of its organizers and stockholders being Mr. Johnson. For the first six months he had no particular

connection with the running of the creamery, but he was then urged to take its management, and agreed to do so. He devotes all his time to the creamery and has made it a great success. In 1898 the company bought the Plattville creamery and has since operated the two in connection. At the Na-au-say creamery, which manufactures butter for both, they made two hundred and fifty thousand pounds of butter in 1899, using for the purpose over five and one-half million pounds of milk. They employ twenty-four men, most of them being engaged in collecting the milk. The butter is sold mostly to one company in Aurora and afterwards is known as Elgin creamery. The quality is so unusually fine that prizes have been awarded the company both at state and national butter-makers' meetings. Mr. Johnson has supervision of the entire business and has proved himself the right man in the right place; being an unusually efficient and reliable manager.

Mr. Johnson has been the nominee of the Prohibition party for the state legislature and United States congress, and at the congressional election he had the honor of receiving the largest vote of any of the party's candidates in Illinois. For nine years he has served as road commissioner, and for twenty years has been school trustee. In the Presbyterian Church he is serving as an elder and also as a Sunday-school officer, and for twenty years has been either president or treasurer of the Kendall County Sunday-school Association.

February 19, 1879, Mr. Johnson married Mag-



gie, daughter of Silas F. Wagner, who early in the '50s, came to Illinois from Ohio, where he was reared. He accompanied his parents, who settled in Oswego Township, but later bought land in Kendall Township, where for years he engaged in buying live stock. Politically he was a Republican. With the exception of the position of road commissioner he refused to accept offices. By his marriage to Ella Jane Hopkins he had seven children, of whom Mrs. Johnson is the second. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have had five children, namely: Mabel, deceased; Ruth, Theodore, Sarah and Ellen. About 1890 Mr. Johnson erected the commodious residence where he and his family have since made their home, on section 20, Na-au-say Township.

**OLIVER CLEVELAND JOHNSON**, a pioneer of 1843 in Kendall County, was born at Castleton, Vt., December 28, 1818, his parents being Endearing and Nancy Johnson, of New England. His ancestry is traced back to the famous Stuart family through his mother. Late in life she came to Illinois. Her death was caused by burns resulting from the catching on fire of her clothes. She was then a little more than one hundred years of age. Her body was the first interred in the Sable Grove Cemetery.

The trip from Vermont to Illinois our subject made via the lakes and from Michigan overland with a team. He took up one hundred and sixty acres in the northwest corner of section 20, Na-au-say Township, and a part of the southeast quarter. The prairie land he broke with oxen. Wolves were numerous; the surroundings were those of the frontier. Grain was hauled to Chicago with wagons. From the first he prospered. He added to his land until he had four hundred acres at the time of his death. Not long before he died he built a fine residence that still stands on the homestead. His death, which occurred February 25, 1885, was caused directly by lung fever, but indirectly resulted from a fracture of his thigh bone, which weakened his constitution. Politically a Republican, he was one of the local

leaders of his party. He served in all of the local offices and during the war was a recruiting officer. From 1862 to 1864 he held the office of state representative from this senatorial district. He officiated as an elder in the Presbyterian Church from the first election up to the time of his demise, and he aided in the erection of the house of worship here, being a member of the building committee and contributing liberally of his means to its construction.

At Castleton, Vt., February 2, 1843, Mr. Johnson married Mary Ann Wheeler, a sister of Sheldon H. Wheeler, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. She died October 10, 1895. Of the two sons and five daughters born to their union, only three are living, namely: Sarah, who married Carey A. Hopkins, and resides in Aurora; Sheldon W.; and Oliver C., who is pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Morris, Ill.

**VALMAR BROWN**, who is living retired in Big Grove Township, Kendall County, was born in Decatur, Otsego County, N. Y., January 9, 1823, a son of Nathaniel and Orpha (Seward) Brown, both of Puritan ancestry. His father spent his entire life in New York state, whither his father had migrated from Connecticut, with two brothers, making the journey with ox-sleds.

In 1844 Valmar Brown left home for the west. He landed in Chicago at midnight, October 12, of that year. His sole possession was a twenty-five cent piece. Not caring to spend it he spent the balance of the night in exploring the city.

The next day he found a man from Naperville who had brought a load of wheat to market, and this farmer agreed to take him to Naperville for twenty-five cents. Upon reaching the man's house, Saturday night, the latter not only refused to accept the money, but invited him to stay over Sunday. Finally the young man made an arrangement to spend the winter with his kind friend, who was a carpenter and joiner, and to whom he could therefore be of some aid. In the

spring he secured employment on a farm some miles away. His employer, Mr. Sheldon, gave him charge of one of the two threshing machines that he owned, and he brought it to Kendall County for the season. The machine was a new Buffalo Pitts, but recently patented, and the farmers, not knowing him or his machine, felt afraid to trust them. The first man who risked him in the work was David Lord, of Big Grove Township, and the work was done in so satisfactory a manner that afterward he had no trouble in securing steady employment during the season. He spent the fall and early winter in threshing in Kendall, LaSalle and Kane Counties, working up the Fox River Valley to within eight miles of Chicago, and continuing until early in December, when he took the machine back to the owner.

While at Mr. Lord's, in Kendall County, Mr. Brown had met Miss Emeline Lord and the attraction was sufficient to draw him back to the county when the threshing season ended. He secured work with Thomas Spencer, a well-known carpenter of the day. During the winter he saved enough money to buy forty acres of government land at \$1.25 per acre. The next summer he worked as a carpenter in this county, thus saving enough money to build a small house on his place. He was then ready to begin house-keeping, and on the 31st of October, 1847, he and Miss Lord were married, coming at once to their little 18x22 cottage. Mrs. Brown was born in Oswego County, N. Y., September 15, 1828, and in 1843 accompanied her parents to Illinois.

For some years after his marriage Mr. Brown worked as a carpenter. He hired a neighbor to break the sod of his new farm, paying him \$12 for one day's work by himself and five yoke of oxen. In 1856 he sold out and bought one hundred and thirty-eight acres on sections 14 and 15, this being the Lot Scofield place. Afterward he engaged in farming, besides following his trade. In 1875 he became traveling salesman for the Marseilles Manufacturing Company, for whom he sold windmills in Illinois for a period of one year. During one season he sold farm imple-

ments for a firm in Ottawa, then for two years traveled for a manufacturer in Millbrook, after which he introduced the disc harrow in Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota, this machine being manufactured by Budlong & Co., of Aurora. Finally, however, he became so lame with rheumatism that traveling was no longer practicable and he retired. In 1880 he moved from the farm into Newark, but five years later returned to the homestead, and here his wife died January 6, 1887. Her body was interred in the Millington cemetery. A few years later her only son, George, died. Her only daughter, Cora A., was first married to Frederick Redfield, by whom she had one son, Tracy Redfield. She is now the wife of James Lawrence, of Aurora, by whom she has a son and daughter, William and Lila Lawrence.

It is an interesting fact that Mr. Brown has in his possession the original patent from James K. Polk for his forty-acre tract in LaSalle County. In politics he is a Republican. He has always refused office, but was once elected highway commissioner without his knowledge and consent. Converted at eighteen years of age, he has since been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and during much of that time he served on the official board. During early days his home was headquarters for the circuit riders and ministers of his denomination.

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JOHN CYRENUS SHAW, supervisor of Lisbon Township and a widely known breeder of blooded live-stock in Kendall County, was born in the township and county mentioned, May 7, 1846. He is the son of Thomas and Ellen (Smethurst) Shaw, natives of Lancashire, England. His father was born in 1809 and his mother in 1811. They were married in 1835, emigrated to America seven years later and established their home in Lisbon Township, where Mr. Shaw entered a claim of eighty acres. From childhood both himself and wife had worked in the woolen mills of Ashton, England, his special occupation being that of a finisher of cloth.



Doubtless this was one reason why they entered so heartily into their new farming life and the establishment of their homestead, on which they lived for a period of forty-five years. In 1887 they removed to Yorkville, but a short time afterward located in Newark, where Mr. Shaw died April 17, 1891, and his wife February 7, 1896.

At the time of his death Thomas Shaw owned four hundred acres of land in Lisbon Township and was accounted a man of thrift and sound business judgment. During most of his active life he was officially connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church and was prominent in the establishment of several societies of that denomination. He not only prospered financially, but his religious and moral worth was unquestioned. In civic affairs he was retiring, invariably declining public office. The family consists of nine children, all still living. Elias, the eldest, is a fruit grower in Santa Rosa, Cal. Anna is the wife of Joseph Fielding, of Scranton, Iowa. William is a resident of Waupaca, Wis. The fourth child, Mary, is the widow of Matthew Cocksford and resides in Chicago. Thomas is a wholesale music dealer of Wichita, Kans. Our subject is the sixth of the family, the seventh being Samuel S., a farmer of Scranton, Iowa. Elizabeth is married to Otto Worsley, of Newark, and Maggie to Hiram Worsley, of Scranton.

John C. Shaw, a self-made man, as was his father, and almost self-educated, was born on the family homestead and lived with his parents until the date of his marriage, July 15, 1874. His wife, Barbara (née Fletcher), was the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Becker) Fletcher, and was born in Pennsylvania, one of a family of nine children, namely: Mary, who married James Runner and resided in Kendall County until her death in 1899; Lucinda, wife of John Brickley, of Chatsworth, Ill.; Samuel, a resident of Hoopes-ton, Ill.; Ellen, widow of Ezekiel Fletcher, of Plattville, Ill.; Joseph, who died in Coffey County, Kans.; Barbara, wife of Mr. Shaw; Eliza, who is unmarried and lives in Plattville, Ill.; David, of Hoopes-ton; and Frank, who died in California.

After his marriage Mr. Shaw bought one hun-

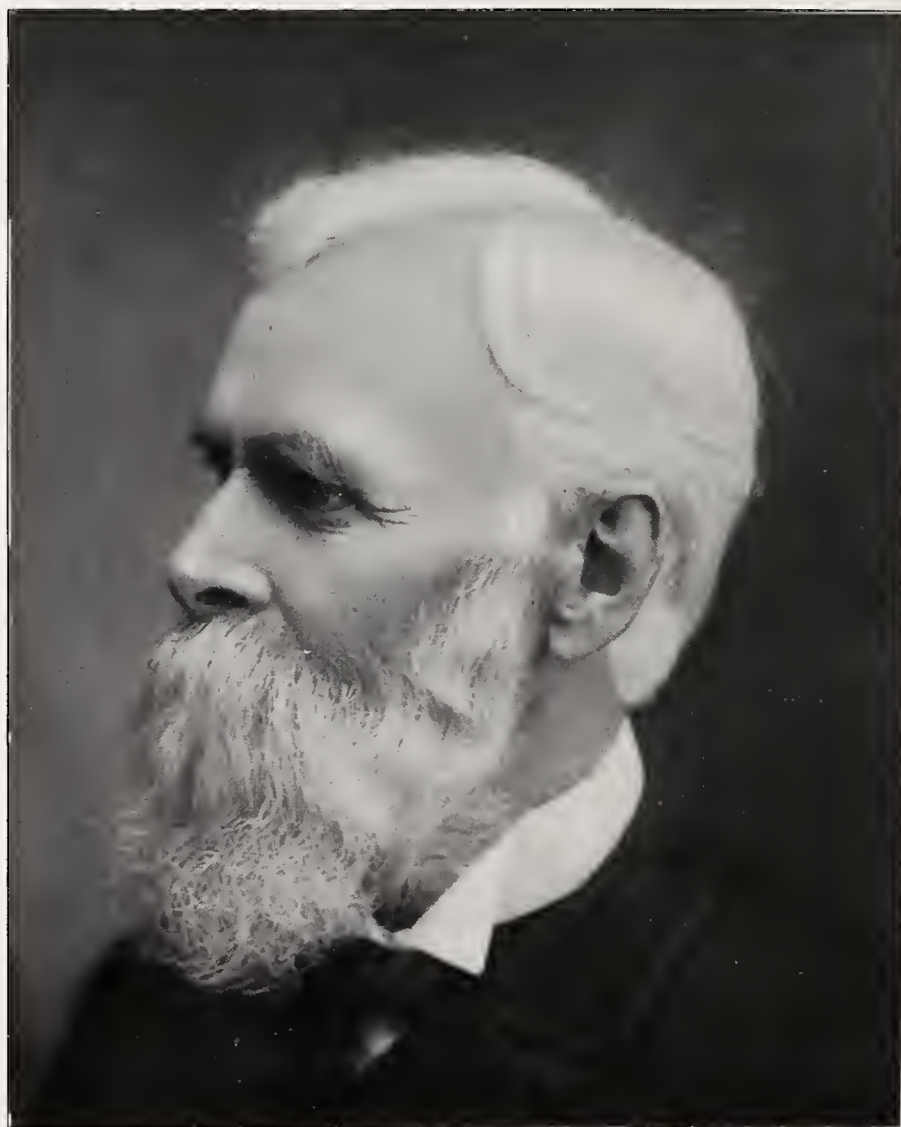
dred and sixty acres, now included in the homestead, and commenced life in a very simple home. He improved the farm, added one hundred and sixty acres to it and in 1895 erected the comfortable residence in which he now lives. He is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres in one body and fifty acres in Seward Township. He operates the entire farm, feeding his grain to live stock, which includes some sixty head of cattle annually. For the past fifteen years, however, he has given special attention to the breeding of thoroughbred Poland-China swine. His herd averages one hundred head per year, which he sells for breeding purposes only. It has a place in the "American Record," at its head being "Model" (44,789) son of the famous "Klever's Model." He has kept pace with the best strains of this noted breed and his herd has a wide reputation. It has been represented at all the fat stock shows held in Chicago and has never been defeated.

Mr. Shaw is a practical man of action and has taken a leading part in local politics. Until 1884 he supported the Republican party, but since that year he has worked within the temperance organization. He has held the office of supervisor for the past eighteen years, and with the exception of one year his election has always been unanimous. In religion he is a stanch Methodist of long standing, joining that church when he was fifteen years of age, and being identified with it in an official capacity for a quarter of a century. For twenty-five years he has also been a worker in the Sunday-school.

The life of Mr. Shaw furnishes a marked example of the success to be attained by a persistent concentration of one's abilities and energies. As stated, he was virtually without the benefit of schooling. Until he was twenty-one years of age he had never been more than twenty miles from home and had never spent \$5 at one time. His standing is the result of his own unaided effort, based upon strict temperance as to tobacco and liquor. Although he and his wife have no children of their own, they have an adopted daughter, Fannie, who formerly resided in Yorkville.







Mr. M. Hanna M.D.

Photo by Benensohn, Yorkville, Ill.

## WILLIAM McMINN HANNA, M. D.

**W**ILLIAM McMINN HANNA, M. D., of Lisbon, was born at Spring Mills, Centre County, Pa., July 18, 1840, a son of Samuel C. and Susan R. (Miles) Hanna, both natives of Centre County. Samuel C. Hanna was a son of Andrew and Margaret (Cook) Hanna, who were born in this country. The father of Andrew Hanna came from Scotland, and the wife of the last named was of Welsh extraction. Samuel C. Hanna grew to manhood upon a farm and followed agricultural pursuits in his native county until 1854, when he removed to Crawford County, Pa., there spending his remaining years and cultivating a farm. He was a Whig and took an interest in public affairs. As class-leader and member of the official board, for years he was a leader in the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which he belonged. Both he and his wife were born in 1806. He died March 17, 1857, and she October 7, 1882, at her daughter's home in Chicago. Of their ten children seven attained mature years, one having died in infancy, another at nine months, and the second son, Samuel M., at the age of three years.

The oldest son, Edward B., came to Illinois in 1854 and settled at Morris, Grundy County, where he was postmaster for ten years (a part of the time under President Lincoln). In 1872 he removed to Chicago and embarked in the wholesale drug business. He died in that city January 12, 1892. Thomas B., who was a student in the University of Michigan and a graduate of Rush Medical College, practiced medicine in

Lisbon ten years, removing to Chicago to associate himself with his brother in the drug business; in 1875 he went to Denison, Tex., and engaged in professional practice and the drug business. He died there May 7, 1890. In the year after the outbreak of the Civil war he organized Company E, Ninety-first Illinois Infantry, and was mustered into service September 8, 1862, remaining at the front until December 20 of the same year. His regiment took part in the capture of guerillas in Kentucky.

The other children of the family were as follows: Sarah J., who married Walter C. Evans, a farmer in Pennsylvania, and died December 18, 1869, aged thirty-three years; Margaret V., wife of William J. McFarland, of Chicago; William M.; Martha E., wife of Albert B. Moore, a farmer of Pottawattamie County, Iowa; and Septimus J., an attorney, now editing a Christian Science publication in Boston.

No event of unusual importance occurred to mark the boyhood or youth of William M. Hanna. He attended Alleghany College at Meadville, Pa., after which he matriculated in the University of Michigan. June 2, 1864, he left the classroom to enlist in his country's service, and became a member of Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with a commission as second lieutenant. This company he assisted in recruiting from Kendall and Grundy Counties. He went into camp at Quincy, Ill., and was thence sent to Leavenworth, Kans., to aid in checking the depredations of the guerilla,



Quantrell. At the expiration of his time he was mustered out, October 14, 1864, at Springfield, Ill. He remained with his brother, Dr. Thomas B. Hanna, in Lisbon until the winter of 1865, when he returned to the university. After completing his medical studies, in September, 1866, he began to practice at Seneca, Ill., where he remained two years. During that time he formed the acquaintance of Miss Delight E. Tuttle, daughter of James B. and Loretta (Nichols) Tuttle. She was born in Camden, Oneida County, N. Y., and at fourteen years of age accompanied her parents to Seneca, Ill., where she became the doctor's wife January 26, 1868.

In the fall of 1868 Dr. Hanna returned to Lisbon and associated himself in practice with his brother until the latter removed to Chicago, since which time he has been alone. In 1886 he took a post-graduate course in Rush Medical College, and in 1897 a post-graduate course in the Chicago Polyclinic. In his thirty-two years of continuous practice in Kendall County he has built up an enviable reputation for skill and painstaking care as a physician, as well as for many admirable personal traits of character. Aside from professional duties he has found time to identify himself with matters of a political and social nature. He has been an earnest supporter of the Republican party, served as supervisor of Big Grove Township in 1883-84, during which time the bridges were built across the Fox River at Millington and Yorkville; and for twelve years he has been a member of the board of education. In the fall of 1884 he was elected to the state legislature, and during his term in that body was active in securing the passage of what was known as the demonstrator's bill, a measure legalizing and providing for the procuring of bodies for dissecting and demonstration work in medical colleges. He is deeply interested in every measure pertaining to or for the benefit of his profession, and is an active member of the Illinois Medical Association; also belongs to the LaSalle County Medical Society. The Grand Army post at Morris has his name on its muster roll, and he is also a member of Orient Lodge No. 323, A. F. & A. M., at Lisbon, in which he is past master.

In his home life Dr. Hanna has had many bereavements, and is now left alone, the sole survivor of his family. His wife was taken from him by death October 15, 1885. Their daughter, who was born April 2, 1872, died April 11, 1874, when but two sunny years had crowned her parents' hearts with joy and pride. The only son, Willie T., was born January 19, 1876, and died July 16, 1887, when eleven years of age.

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**ALFRED A. ZELLAR.** The Zellars were numbered among the early settlers of north-eastern Illinois, and half a century ago the birth of Alfred A., of this sketch, took place upon his father's homestead, three miles north of Plano, in which locality he always has dwelt. His father, Joel Zellar, was a native of Jefferson County, N. Y., and lived in that section of the state until he was twenty years old. In 1838 he concluded to try his fortunes in the west, and going to Buffalo by way of the canal he there embarked on a ship bound for Chicago, where he safely arrived in due time. From that place, whose great future was unimagined, he proceeded across the country to Kendall County and took up one hundred and four acres of land near Plano. He suffered the vicissitudes common to the pioneer, and in the developing of his farm he was first obliged to break the prairie with oxen and old-fashioned plows. Having harvested his crops, he then had to haul the grain to Chicago, and every department of agriculture was attended by special hardships. Nobly he played his part in the founding of this county and in the maintenance of its structure.

Early in the agitation in this country on the slavery question Joel Zellar became an Abolitionist, and when the Republican party was organized he was one of its most loyal adherents. When the Union seemed, indeed, in a grave crisis he left his young wife and little ones and went to the defense of his country. Enlisting in Company F, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Infantry, he went to the front and took part in several important campaigns, including

the celebrated march through Georgia, under the leadership of General Sherman. His long and forced marches, exposure to all kinds of weather and the numerous hardships of the soldier's life, undermined his health gradually, and finally he contracted the disease to which his death, June 5, 1865, is directly attributable. He left to mourn his loss a great multitude of sincere friends, and his widow, whose maiden name was Lydia E. Robbins, was thus invested with a double parental responsibility. Amelia, the only daughter, is deceased, and Edward, the third child, died when in his third year. Mention of the second follows:

The date of Alfred A. Zellar's birth is March 17, 1850, and thus he had only attained his thirteenth year when his father left home and went to lay his life upon the altar of his country. The lad attended school only during the three months' winter term for three or four years. He manfully took up as many of the duties of the farm as his strength allowed, and was very young when he mastered the different departments of the work. When he had reached his majority the homestead was sold, and he soon invested his funds in another farm, this tract, comprising one hundred and fifty acres, being situated in the township of Bristol and Plano. After spending five years in the cultivation of this finely improved place, Mr. Zellar came to Plano and embarked in the grocery business, later adding a stock of bakery goods. He has disposed of his country home and bought a comfortable modern residence here instead.

Politically Mr. Zellar has been an acknowledged factor in the Republican party, as he has been a delegate to conventions and served for four years as a member of the Plano city council. He was the only man ever elected in the second ward on the anti-license ticket, and for a period of six months he acted in the capacity of mayor pro tem. He has been president of the school board, and is a member of Little Rock Lodge No. 171, I. O. O. F., and of the Woodmen of the World. Religiously he is a Methodist in faith, and is connected with the Plano congregation.

The marriage of Mr. Zellar and Celia Daley

took place February 8, 1872. Four children blessed their union, namely: Charles, who died in infancy; Willard J., now a resident of DeKalb; Edna, wife of Hermon Jones, of Big Rock Township; and Vera, who is at home. The mother was born in New York City, and is a daughter of John Daley, a native of England. He died when the daughter was only three years old. His wife, Margaret Daley, was a native of Ireland.

LEW W. MASON. Nearly two score years ago the Masons became identified with the business men of Yorkville, and father and sons have maintained an enviable reputation for integrity and honor, enterprise and general financial ability. Their influence has been cast upon the side of progress and the right in every instance, and Yorkville has been able to boast of no more patriotic citizens.

Lew Wallace Mason is of the third generation in direct line of descent, connected with the hide and leather business. His grandfather, Caleb Mason, who was born near Boston, Mass., learned the tanner's trade, and for several years followed that line of business. Removing to Ohio at an early period he there gave his attention chiefly to the cultivation of a farm, which was located in the vicinity of Painesville. He came to Illinois at a very early day and in 1866 settled at Yorkville, where he spent the remainder of his life, which came to a close when he had attained the age of ninety years.

Wellington Mason, father of our subject, was born on the old homestead near Painesville, Ohio, and accompanied the family to Illinois. Here he taught school when he was only seventeen years old, and later was similarly occupied in different parts of the state and at St. Louis, Mo. Coming to Yorkville in 1866 he embarked in the tannery business, and for twenty-one years was ranked among the leading and successful business men of this place. He made a record of which he has just reason to be proud, and his name has been a synonym for uprightness in every town where he has dwelt. In 1887 he sold out his business here



and went to Kossuth County, Iowa, where he purchased a large tract of land, and since that time has been actively engaged in agricultural pursuits. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic order, and in political opinion is a Republican of firm convictions.

For a helpmate and companion along the journey of life Mr. Mason chose Sarah B. Neff, of a prominent family in LaSalle County, Ill. She departed this life in April, 1899, and is deeply mourned by a host of friends, as well as by her immediate family. Five sons and a daughter are thus left motherless. Frank, the first-born, resides in Marseilles, Ill., and Laura, the second child, is the only daughter. Ellsworth C. is engaged in the harness business in Somonauk. Curtis is in partnership with our subject; and Lisle is a resident of Dixon, Cal.

The birth of Lew W. Mason took place February 7, 1862, near Gardner, Grundy County, Ill. After completing a common school education he entered a business college at Geneseo, Ill., and then established a harness shop in Yorkville. For the past year he has been in partnership with his brother, and they have continually extended their trade. They manufacture a fine grade of harness, and command the respect of the public by their methodical, thorough way of transacting business.

In Republican circles Mr. Mason takes an influential part. He has often acted as a delegate to conventions of his political brethren, and is a member of the Illinois Republican League. Socially he is very popular, and in the Masonic order belongs to the blue lodge of Yorkville, the chapter of Sandwich, Ill., and the commandery at Aurora, Ill. A few years ago he built a residence here, but subsequently removed to his present home on Main street, North Yorkville, which he purchased. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The marriage of Mr. Mason and Mary E. Hopkins took place June 30, 1887. She is a daughter of Dr. Robert and Mary E. (Cook) Hopkins, the former a graduate of Rush Medical College, of Chicago. He was born in Washington County, N. Y., in 1822, and in 1843 became a citizen

of Yorkville. He was but little past his majority when he established himself in professional practice, and, as there were few physicians in this region at that early period, he was called to many distant points, and, indeed, he might have been termed a "circuit rider," for his patients were scattered over a large district, his rides often extending twenty or twenty-five miles. His was a very busy and useful career, and his friends were innumerable in this county. He was, altogether, in active practice here for thirty-five years, and by strict attention to business made a snug fortune, investing his funds from time to time in farm lands until his possessions amounted to about three thousand acres of land in this county. Though not an office-seeker, nor a politician, he was a stalwart Democrat, and religiously he was a Congregationalist. His death occurred June 1, 1878, and though more than a score of years have since rolled away his memory is tenderly cherished in the hearts of his many old friends.

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**W**ILLIAM A. JESSUP. For half a century Mr. Jessup has dwelt in Kendall County, and though he has led a very active, progressive-spirited life during this entire period, and notwithstanding the fact that he is more than three score and ten years old, he retains his deep interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community and has not relaxed his many business affairs.

The father of our subject, Daniel Jessup, was born in Orange County, N. Y., July 1, 1795. He was a man of wide information and local importance in his community and time, and for many years he was successfully engaged in teaching. He served as captain of a company of militia, and in religious circles also his position was not without wide influence, for he aided loyally in the support of the Presbyterian Church and Sunday-school of his neighborhood. William A. is the only survivor of the first marriage of Daniel Jessup, and the wife, Sarah, was a sister of the father of Edmund Seely, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. For a second wife Daniel



Jessup chose Martha Seely, by whom he had seven sons, and his third wife bore the maiden name of Fanny Pierson.

William A. Jessup was born in Goshen, Orange County, N. Y., November 23, 1826. When he was twenty-three years of age he left home and came to the west. He went on the railroad as far as it had been constructed and at Buffalo embarked on a boat bound for Detroit. At that point he purchased a ticket on the railroad, which had been built only as far as Michigan City. There he went on board a boat and went to Chicago, but the journey was made in a severe storm, and all of the passengers were seasick. The rest of the trip to Lockport was made on the canal, where Mr. Jessup remained for some three years, making his home with his relative, Edmund Seely, and working the homestead on shares. He then bought two hundred and forty acres of a Mr. Townsend, who had taken up the claim originally. Aside from this property, there was so little fenced in the neighborhood that a person might have ridden unobstructed across the prairie for many miles in any direction.

At the beginning of his career here, Mr. Jessup entered the dairying business and shipped butter to Chicago and back to Orange County, N. Y. He also raised grain extensively, Lockport and Joliet being his chief markets for that product. For years he devoted a large share of his attention to the raising of cattle and also fed live stock for the market. He bought and later sold a tract of sixty-seven acres, and invested a portion of his capital in another farm of eighty acres. He erected all of the substantial buildings upon his place and built his residence with special reference to the fine springs which supply the house with unsurpassed water. The twelve miles of tiling which he has had laid on the farm has greatly improved the homestead and rendered it more productive and healthful.

In the early part of 1853 Mr. Jessup returned to his native county, and on March 17 married Marie J. Van Duzer, daughter of John Van Duzer, who was a supervisor and justice of the peace. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jessup are: John V. D.; Sarah Seely, deceased;

Theodore, who is in the employ of the Western Electric Company, of Chicago; Margaret Jennings, wife of Hugh H. Goudie, of this township; and Clara Howell. John V. D. married Abigail E. Goodale, and their three children are: William A., Esther and John V. D., Jr.

Though yet hale and hearty, Mr. Jessup has turned a portion of his more arduous cares to his elder son, and in 1893 he had a pleasant modern house erected near his own home, for the son's family. In former years he served for several years as supervisor of this township and also as a highway commissioner and school trustee. He was a Whig in his early manhood and since the Republican party was organized has given it his allegiance. For many years he has been an elder in the Presbyterian Church and was influential in the building of the present house of worship in his home township.

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**S**HELDON HIRAM WHEELER. It is probable that no resident of Na-au-say Township is better known throughout Kendall County than Mr. Wheeler. Having come here in an early day and identified himself closely with agricultural interests, and having met with more than ordinary success, it is but natural that he should hold a high place in the regard of his acquaintances. His office as president of the Old Settlers Association has made him a conspicuous figure in this county, and he is not only widely known, but also everywhere honored. The life of a pioneer so prominent should be recorded in the annals of the county, so that its example may be emulated by future generations.

Mr. Wheeler was born in Castleton, Rutland County, Vt., September 10, 1826, a son of Alan-son K. Wheeler. His father, a native of Vermont, born in 1799, came to Illinois one year after his son, our subject. Here, as in the east, he devoted himself to farming. First as a Whig and later as a Republican he was active in public affairs. He aided in the formation of the Republican party in this county and was an early representative from this county in the Illinois legis-

lature, where he served faithfully and well. The Congregational Church here owed its start in large degree to his efforts. He lived to a good old age, dying in 1880. His wife, whom he married in Vermont, and who bore the maiden name of Sarah Whitlock, died in 1891. They were the parents of four sons and three daughters, of whom three sons and one daughter are living, the latter in Chicago, and the former, Sheldon H., Rollin M. and John A., in this county.

The first of the family to settle in Kendall County was Rollin M. Wheeler. In 1843, when twenty-two years old, he drove through from Vermont to Illinois and selected the land in Nau-say Township, where he still lives, buying the two hundred and forty acres from the government. He soon went back to Vermont, married, and brought his wife to Illinois with him. He also brought one hundred head of sheep, the first flock of any size ever in Chicago. With five and six yoke of oxen he broke a two-foot furrow in the land. He planted and raised corn and wheat, which he hauled to the Chicago market. As soon as he had wool to sell he also found a ready market in Chicago. He continued to be heavily interested in sheep until about 1885. He also raised large numbers of hogs and cattle, and carried on a dairy business. At the time of coming west he brought with him a copy of the creed of the Congregational Church. This was used in the organization of the first church here. However, later on, a number of people from Orange County, N. Y., settled here and they desired to establish a Presbyterian Church. Mr. Wheeler and his wife co-operated with them, became charter members of the church, and assisted in the building of a house of worship. As long as he was able to attend services he held the office of elder. Of late years he has been to a large extent retired from active labors.

Sheldon H. Wheeler is a few years younger than his brother Rollin, and was two years later in settling in Kendall County. It was in 1845 that he started west, coming with his father as far as Buffalo, and then proceeding alone to Chicago. He brought a flock of forty sheep with him, driving them from Chicago to his brother's farm,

and the descendants of that original herd are still in his flock to-day. In the spring of 1846 his father came west. The first frame house they built is still standing and is used as a shop and storehouse. It was built in the spring of 1847. The shingles and flooring for the house were hauled from Chicago. For fifteen years the family lived in that pioneer abode. They then erected a commodious and substantial building that is the present home of our subject. Since the death of his parents Mr. Wheeler has continued to live on the old homestead, which has never been deeded except from the government or state to the family. To some extent he has been interested in the dairy business and in raising Holstein cattle, but he is not so heavily interested in stock as in former years. In the main his life has been a successful one, although he has had his share of reverses, not the least of these being his loss by lightning, in 1892, of a large and substantial barn, together with forty tons of hay, twelve horses and a quantity of grain. Immediately afterward he built another large barn, which he has since used.

January 4, 1866, Mr. Wheeler married, in Aurora, Ill., Miss Mary Foulston, by whom he had nine children. The oldest child, Elizabeth, died in 1897, and two sons, Mason and Cyrus, died in infancy. The others are: Frank F., a farmer in Lisbon Township; Cyrus D. (the second of that name), who is a grain and stock dealer in Triumph, La Salle County; John A., a farmer in Plainfield Township, Will County; Seth R., Mary Jane and Oliver J., at home.

In local politics Mr. Wheeler is independent; in national, a Republican. While he is not a politician, he has been induced to serve in many local offices, and has held every township office excepting those of collector and constable. He was elected constable, but refused to serve. Fraternally he is connected with the blue lodge of Masons at Oswego and the chapter at Aurora. The different churches have received his assistance, he having helped in the erection of the edifices occupied by the Congregationalists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Universalists, Lutherans, Evangelical Association and Roman Catholics, a



record perhaps equaled by few men in Illinois. He attends the Presbyterian Church and contributes to its support. As a citizen no man in his township stands higher. His life has been beyond reproach, his record that of a progressive farmer and a public-spirited citizen.

**EDWIN WHITTLESEY HARVEY**, an enterprising and progressive agriculturist and a prominent citizen of Seward Township, Kendall County, was born November 13, 1838, in Clyde, Wayne County, N. Y., a son of Leonard Harvey, and a grandson of Medad and Anna (Buell) Harvey, life-long residents of the Empire State.

Leonard Harvey was born in Onondaga County, N. Y., in 1809, and was there reared on a farm. In his earlier years he was engaged in agricultural and mercantile pursuits in his native state, of which he was a resident until 1855, when he removed with his family to Orange County, Va., and there remained two years. In the spring of 1857 he came to Kendall County, Ill., and in 1858 purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 25, Seward Township, from which he improved the farm now owned and occupied by his son Edwin W. Here he was successfully engaged in tilling the soil until his death, in December, 1884. In politics he was a Whig in his younger days, but was afterwards identified with the Free Soil and Republican parties. In his religious belief he was a Baptist, having never swerved from the faith in which his ancestors, for several generations, had been reared. His first wife, whose maiden name was Jane Rathbone, died in early womanhood, in Onondaga County, N. Y., leaving one child, Mary, now the wife of William B. Angell, of Odell, Ill. He subsequently married Cornelia Whittlesey, who was born in Camden, Oneida County, N. Y., in June, 1814, and died on the homestead, in Seward Township, in May, 1892. Of their union the following named children were born: Edwin W.; Martha, widow of the late George Gaskell; Franklin B., living near Benja-

min, Knox County, Tex.; James H., who died in Lee County, Ill., leaving three sons, Roy, Harlon and James; Eugene K., of Dale, Okla.; Leonard, who died at the age of two years; Cornelia, wife of Charles Gaskell, of New Lisbon, Ohio; Clarinda (a twin of Cornelia), who died in Springfield, Mass., in 1875; Anna E., wife of H. W. Otis, of Peshastin, Wash.; and Harriet I., wife of Melzar W. Starks, of Sioux City, Iowa.

Edwin W. Harvey spent the first seventeen years of his life on the home farm in Wayne County, N. Y., after which he lived with his parents in Virginia two years. Receiving but limited educational advantages he made such good use of the opportunities afforded him, both in school and out, that when he came to Kendall County, at the age of nineteen years, he was qualified to take charge of a school, and the following two years was employed as a teacher in Kendall, Will and Grundy Counties. In the fall of 1862 he accepted a clerkship in a general store at Jackson, Mich., where he remained a year, going from there to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., to complete the commercial course in Eastman's Business College, in which he was subsequently the teacher of bookkeeping until 1865. Going then to Springfield, Mass., he occupied a similar position in the business college of that city for a year or more. In 1875, having in the meantime been married and left a widower, he returned to the parental homestead in Kendall County and assumed the management of the farm, giving his attention in a general way to farming, stock-raising and dairying. He made the latter branch of his industry a specialty from 1884 to 1891, introducing the first silo in this vicinity, and further equipping his place for carrying on the business to the best advantage. He then established a trade in the Chicago market for his butter, charging two cents per pound above Elgin prices, but on account of the difficulty in procuring efficient help, and the amount of care and responsibility involved, he gave up the business after seven years. Mr. Harvey is known as one of the representative men of the county, interested in all measures inaugurated for beneficial purposes.



Politically he is a staunch Republican, and has served many years on the school board; has been school trustee six years, and is now serving his eighth year as town clerk. Fraternally he is a high degree Mason, having joined Roswell Lee Lodge, in Springfield, Mass., in 1866, and likewise united with the chapter in that city.

On November 13, 1866, while living in Springfield, Mass., Mr. Harvey married Emma A., daughter of Alden and Rhoda Hitchcock. She was born in Springfield and died May 30, 1875, in the city of her birth. Two children blessed their union, namely: Effie Mabel, who was born in 1870 and died in infancy; and Leonard A., who was born in June, 1874, and married Grace E. Works, of Springfield, Mass. July 20, 1878, Mr. Harvey married Lois Starks, who was born in Lee County, Ill., a daughter of Edwin W. and Alameda (Camp) Starks, and a granddaughter of Charles Starks, who migrated from Pennsylvania to Lee County at an early period of its settlement. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey became the parents of three children, all of whom died in early childhood.

**E**PHRAIM DEGROFF. The family represented by this well-known citizen of Kendall County has been represented in America since the colonial period. Prior to the Revolutionary war one John DeGroff crossed the ocean from Holland to America and settled in Westchester County, N. Y. He it was who founded the family in this country. His son, Evart, a farmer of Westchester County, married Esther Bush, and they became the parents of five children, only two of whom attained mature years. One of these was John E., who was a soldier in the war of 1812, enlisting just after his marriage to Mary Stoutenburgh. Upon his return from the war he settled at Hyde Park, Dutchess County, N. Y., and spent the remainder of his life upon a farm there. Of his eight children who attained maturity Ephraim was the third. The father died in 1846, when sixty-three years old, and the mother passed away in May, 1885, being then over ninety years of age.

Born in Hyde Park, N. Y., April 23, 1821, our subject was reared on the home farm, and when he was twenty-one years old had charge of the work there. Six years later he married and began farming on his own account. In 1857 he came to Illinois and bought the farm in Kendall County where he still resides. This is situated on section 5, Little Rock Township, and has been his home since February 2, 1858. Since then he has made many improvements, has tiled that part of the land which needed draining, and has built the residence he now occupies. In earlier years he raised swine, which he butchered and then marketed in the city. For two years after he came the market was in Aurora, after which he shipped to Chicago. He gave some attention to raising Alderney cattle, and had some fine specimens of that breed on his place. The one hundred and twenty acres comprising the estate are under cultivation and bear every evidence of their owner's energy and progressive spirit. Owing to advancing years he is now retired from active cares, and has turned over the management of the property to his son-in-law, Edwin Jay.

In politics Mr. DeGroff has never been active. However, he is staunch in his support of the Republican party. As pathmaster and as school director he has aided in bettering the condition of the schools and of the roads in his district. His marriage, September 12, 1848, united him with Anna H. Kipp, daughter of Reuben and Phoebe (Stringham) Kipp, and granddaughter of Abraham and Catherine (Quinby) Kipp. A son and daughter were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. DeGroff. The daughter, Mary, is the wife of Edwin Jay, who operates the DeGroff homestead. The son, Eli, was born June 20, 1849, and remained with his father until he attained his majority, when he started out for himself. After farming for a time he settled in the village of Little Rock, where he now makes his home. He has always been very handy with tools and has the reputation of being a good carpenter. December 24, 1872, he married Cora Ryburn, of Little Rock Township, daughter of Matthew Neal and Charlotte (Mulke) Ryburn.





*E. W. Taxon*

Photo by Root, Chicago.



## HON. EDGAR W. FAXON.

HON. EDGAR W. FAXON, a prominent member of the Plano bar, occupies an important position in the councils of the Republican party. He has won distinction for the part he has taken in general public affairs, and his enthusiasm and energy put new spirit and life into every enterprise with which he is associated.

The first member of the Faxon family who came to the United States was one Thomas Faxon, whose birth occurred in England in 1601. He crossed the Atlantic ocean in 1647, and was accompanied by his wife, Joan, and their three children. They located near Braintree, Mass., and of their direct descendants, Richard, Josiah, Thomas, Thomas (second of the name) and Jacob A. are mentioned in the family records. The latter, Jacob A., was the great-grandfather of our subject. He chose for a wife Lydia Stiles, and their son, William S., was the grandfather of Edgar W. Faxon. The birth of William S. Faxon occurred in Deerfield, Mass., April 2, 1785, and his marriage took place April 1, 1806. Of his eleven children, ten lived to maturity.

The third of this large family was Walter Stiles Faxon, born in Greenwich, N. Y., September 9, 1812. Under his father's instruction he learned the trade of a brick and stone mason, and in 1843 he came to Illinois and purchased one hundred and seventy-eight acres of government land, situated in Little Rock Township, Kendall County. For many years subsequently he not only improved and managed his farm, but

also was employed considerably at his trade. He long took an active part in local affairs, holding various offices, and in accordance with his Abolitionistic views, he early became identified with the Republican party. Since he reached his twentieth year he has been a devoted member of the Baptist Church. Though eighty-eight years old he has not relinquished his great interest in the progress of his fellow-men and loved country, and still enjoys fair health and strength. His first marriage was solemnized April 3, 1856, the lady of his choice being Mrs. Zelia M. Valentine, a daughter of Joseph Gilbert. Seven children were born to this sterling couple, namely: Edgar W.; Charles G., attorney; George S., present postmaster of Plano; Frank E.; Zelia M.; Hattie B.; and Leroy W. The wife and mother was summoned to the silent land April 18, 1874. Some years later Mr. Faxon married Marion Newell, whose death occurred November 21, 1882.

Hon. Edgar Wade Faxon was born January 22, 1857, in Little Rock Township, Kendall County, and in his boyhood he attended the common schools of his district. His education was completed in the normal schools of Naperville, Ill., and Valparaiso, Ind., his attention being specially directed to the literary and scientific lines of study. After teaching school for four terms he embarked in journalistic work, and for three years conducted the *Amboy Journal* at Amboy, Ill. Then, disposing of this paper, he entered upon his new duties in the office of the secretary of state, Henry D. Dement. In 1881

he became a resident of Aurora, and then removing to Fox Station, Ill., he purchased a fine farm in section 1, Fox Township, and during the ensuing fourteen years he dwelt there, becoming known far and near as a practical agriculturist.

A man of broad, comprehensive views, Mr. Faxon early gained the confidence of the people who knew him, and from time to time he was urged to accept public offices. He acted as a school director and as secretary of the board of education, and, moreover, has long been a justice of the peace. In 1886 he was honored by election to the state legislature, his majority being upwards of seven thousand votes. As a member of the thirty-fifth general assembly he served as chairman of the committees on agriculture and horticulture, on railroads and warehouses, on printing, and on the one relating to the state and municipal indebtedness. He introduced a number of important bills, one of these the one which permanently located the annual state fair at Springfield, Ill. Feeling the need of more than the general knowledge of the law than he as yet possessed, he took up the study, and later attended the Chicago College of Law, being admitted to the bar at Mt. Vernon, Ill., November 9, 1891. Since that date he has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession in Plano, and has met with marked success. He has the reputation of being one of the foremost members of the bar in this county, and for six or more years he has held the position of city attorney. He has retained his interest in journalistic work, and in partnership with a brother, he owns the *Kendall County News*, which, with one exception, is the oldest paper published in this county. Nor have the agricultural interests of this locality become a dead letter in the mind of our subject, as is manifested by the active part which he takes in the same as secretary of the Kendall County Agricultural Society, and he it was who organized the first Farmers' Institute ever held in this county.

Fraternally Mr. Faxon is a Mason of high standing, and besides belonging to the blue lodge and chapter and commandery, he is con-

nected with Medinah Temple of the Mystic Shrine. He also is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Royal Neighbors, the Mystic Workers and Knights of the Globe. As president of the Plano library board, and as a stockholder in the Plano Electric Lighting Company, and as a holder of stock in numerous local enterprises he contributes materially to the progress of this community. He is the attorney of the Electric Lighting Company and of many other local concerns of importance, and is a trustee of the E. L. Henning estate. From time to time Mr. Faxon has invested his surplus funds in business blocks and residences and unimproved property in Plano, thus materially evincing the genuine belief which he holds in the future of this flourishing city.

In 1879 the marriage of Mr. Faxon and Miss Ida Cherry, sister of the well-known Charles T. Cherry, was solemnized. This estimable couple have a son and a daughter, Lillian K., and Julian Kenneth, promising young people, and, like their parents, well educated and well prepared for the active duties of life.

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**F**RANCIS EDWARD WHITFIELD. One of the well-improved farms of Kendall County is that owned and occupied by Mr. Whitfield. It contains every improvement of a model estate, and bears evidence of the painstaking care and keen oversight of its owner. It is a stock rather than a grain farm, and the grain that is raised is used entirely as feed for the stock, of which he has large numbers of the finest grades. One of his specialties is the raising of Poland-China swine, and the size of this business may be judged from the statement that in the winter of 1899-1900 he sold \$1,400 worth, mostly to the Chicago markets. He buys and feeds during the entire year, selling at such times as prices render advisable.

A native of Fox Township, where he still resides, Mr. Whitfield was born February 14, 1854. The record of his ancestry appears in the sketch of his father, William Whitfield.



Reared on a farm, he was familiar with agriculture from an early age. At twenty-one years of age he started out for himself, and for two years farmed in this township, after which, for a similar period, he was with his brother William in Bristol Township. He then returned home and farmed with his father for a year, after which he rented a tract of ninety-three acres from him. Here he has since resided, erecting the various buildings as they were needed. By the purchase of one hundred and fourteen acres he increased his farm holdings, and he now has a well-improved farm of more than two hundred acres, of which one hundred and seventy acres are under the plow. Besides the grain that he raises, he usually buys from two to three thousand bushels every year, which he uses for his stock. He is well posted in the stock business and has found it a profitable industry. He has never taken part in politics, usually votes the Democratic ticket in local and national elections, and keeps posted concerning national issues.

On Christmas day of 1882 Mr. Whitfield married Nora Burns, who was born at Johnstown, Pa., and at fifteen years of age came to Kendall County with her father, Edmund Burns, now deceased. They have two children, Frederick Vincent and Mabel.

**EDWIN SAMUEL FLETCHER.** Among the prominent citizens and progressive agriculturists of Kendall County, no man occupies a more assured position than he whose name is placed at the head of this sketch. A son of the late Thomas Fletcher, whose sketch appears on another page of this work, he was born May 7, 1854, on the old Fletcher homestead, in Lisbon Township. After completing the course in the public schools of this place, he pursued his studies for a time at Jennings Seminary, in Aurora, and on attaining his majority began farming on his own account on the home farm, remaining beneath the parental roof-tree until his marriage. Mr. Fletcher then removed to his present home, which formed a part of the parental estate, paying rent therefore until after the

death of his father, in 1889. Adding to the improvements already inaugurated, he broke up new land, and completed the tiling, there being a tacit understanding that at some time and in some way he would be fully compensated for all outlays. In 1886 he made his first purchase of land, buying the old Nathaniel Sherril estate of two hundred and eighty acres, lying on sections 21 and 22 of Lisbon Township. In 1893 he became the possessor of the John Leach homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, and later bought that portion of the Horace Moore estate that has on it the first quarry opened in this locality, and from which the material used in erecting many of the earlier buildings of this vicinity was taken. He is now the owner of about nine hundred and sixty acres of as choice land as can be found in this section of Illinois. Of this he himself operates four hundred acres, using it for purposes of cultivation or grazing, and in addition to carrying on general farming on a large scale is extensively engaged in stock-feeding and raising. The remainder of his estate he rents, and in all of his dealings with his tenantry he pursues the same liberal policy established by his father, realizing that a good landlord makes good tenants, and his leaseholders frequently remain with him until able to purchase farms of their own.

The heirs of the Fletcher estate have all retained an interest in the old homestead and have added to its acreage and improvements, showing the result of the practical training and the example of their father, and in the settlement of the property Mr. Fletcher has attended to the interests of his sisters residing in other places. He personally supervises the operations of farming and stock-feeding and raising carried on by his employes, and although in a position to lead a life of leisure is not afraid to go into the field himself whenever he sees the necessity for so doing. In improving his land Mr. Fletcher has put in about a thousand dollars' worth of tile and erected many of the buildings, including his comfortable and well-equipped dwelling house, which is an ideal country home.

February 22, 1877, Mr. Fletcher married Ida Scofield, a daughter of Lott and Hannah (Kirk-



land) Scofield, of Big Grove Township, and into their happy household nine children have made their advent, namely: Charles E., a student at the Northwestern University, a member of the class of 1902; Mary E., of the class of 1901, of the same university; Lyell F., who assists his father; Erma E., attending the Lisbon high school; Glenn H., Mildred, Edwin Lott, Ralph and Robert. Politically Mr. Fletcher is an ardent supporter of the principles of the Republican party, and although he has refused official honors has served twelve years as clerk of the local school board. Taking a deep interest in the welfare of his native town, he is liberal in promoting all public enterprises by aid and financial support. Both Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has been a member of the official board and a teacher in the Sunday-school.

**J**OHAN DUNN, one of the highly respected citizens of Yorkville, led a very active life until a few years ago, when he retired, and came to this town to spend his declining years. He is a son of Rev. Joseph Dunn, a minister of the Baptist denomination, and a native of England. The mother was Eliza Hitchcock, also of English birth. The father of Rev. Joseph Dunn, who bore the same name, was a clothier and discovered the present method of dressing broadcloth.

The birth of John Dunn took place October 1, 1824, in Gloucestershire, England, in which country he resided until he was eighteen years of age, when, in company with his brother, Frank Dunn, he sailed to the United States, and, for a period dwelt in New Orleans and vicinity. As he did not like that low land, he proceeded northward and in 1843 came to Kendall County and took up forty acres of land in Kendall Township. With characteristic industry and application he broke the wild prairie, and, raising grain, hauled his products to the Chicago markets. He bravely endured the many privations incident to pioneer life, and in time was enabled to purchase another tract of forty acres adjoining his

homestead, and finally he extended its boundaries to a quarter section. Later he invested his spare funds in another farm of similar size in the neighborhood of Hoopeston, paying at the rate of \$11 an acre. After he had devoted nearly forty years to the business of raising live stock and farm products on the prairies of Illinois, he retired, and leased his farms, while making Yorkville his place of abode.

In the early years of his stay in the United States Mr. Dunn was affiliated with the Whig party, but since the organization of the Republican party he has been actively interested in its welfare. For several terms he served as coroner, for several years was town clerk, and for sixteen years held the office of county supervisor. When the old courthouse was destroyed by fire he was a member of the committee which had in charge the erection of the new building. Religiously he is active in the Baptist Church, and for many years has officiated as a deacon. In 1895 he was afflicted with a stroke of paralysis, which rendered him helpless and speechless for six weeks, but gradually he recovered the use of his limbs and all of his faculties, though he has not yet been restored to his full normal strength.

In 1852 Mr. Dunn and Isabella Harkness were united in marriage. She and her parents, Andrew and Janet (Penman) Harkness, were natives of Roxboroughshire, Scotland, and, after their arrival in the United States, in 1840, they dwelt in New York state ten years. Their voyage on the Atlantic consumed twenty-six days, as they made the trip on a sailing vessel. In 1850 they came to Illinois by way of the canal and lakes, and from Chicago they proceeded to this county by teams, as the railroad had not been constructed. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dunn. Three of the number have passed to the better land, and those surviving are as follows: Edward, of Royal Center, Ind.; Janet, wife of Newton Bridgens, of Kansas; Mrs. Eliza McBride, of Hoopeston, Ill.; Mary, widow of George Ament, and now living with her parents; Amelia, Mrs. Frank Ament, of Fox Township, Kendall County; and Frank, who is managing the old homestead belonging to his father.





BARNARD McKANNA



## BARNARD McKANNA.

**B**ARNARD McKANNA. Conspicuous among the self-made men of Kendall County, who by their practical industry and prudent thrift secured for themselves and families all the comforts and privileges of a model home, was Barnard McKanna, for many years a thriving agriculturist of Seward Township. He was born March 5, 1825, in Oneida County, N. Y., and died April 8, 1895, at his late homestead in Seward. His parents, James and Judith (Rafferty) McKanna, were born in northern Ireland, of Scotch ancestors, but emigrated to this country in early life, and took up their permanent residence in the state of New York.

When but a child Barnard McKanna moved with his parents to Madison County, N. Y., where he was brought up and educated. Dependent on his own resources from his youth he accepted any offered employment, and, being active and ambitious, was never idle. As he approached manhood thrilling tales of the west and its possibilities reached his ears, either through the few papers then available or by way of some daring traveler who had visited the then distant region and returned alive, and he determined that in that undeveloped country was a fortune for him. Accordingly, in 1845, with a single companion, a youth of his own age, he took the canal boat at Syracuse for Buffalo, where he boarded the then famous steamer *Illinois*, commanded by Captain Blake, and started on his perilous journey, with Kendall County, where an old

friend, Mr. Burgess, lived, as the objective point of his destination. Arriving in Chicago, the two companions remained there but one night before starting on foot, via Aurora and Oswego, for Lisbon Township, and while en route they dined one day at the old "Thurber Farm House."

On reaching Lisbon the companion had already tired of western life, and, facing about, at once struck a "bee line" for the east. Mr. McKanna, however, was made of sterner stuff and courageously went to work, finding employment at first with the late Julius Bushnell, and subsequently continued labor as a wage-earner until he had saved money enough to buy a good team, when he engaged in freighting merchandise, lumber, etc., across the country to Chicago, Joliet, Ottawa, Lisbon and Peru. In this occupation he accumulated a sufficient sum to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of government land on section 8, Seward Township, on which he settled as a householder, living at first in a rented house, which stood on land adjoining his own, and which he afterwards purchased.

In 1876, on the site of the house which he first rented, he erected a fine residence of modern style and improvements, it being one of the most attractive in the neighborhood, and thereafter made that his home. Following the business of a general farmer, with excellent pecuniary results, he became an important factor in developing the agricultural resources of this section of the state, and was for many years an extensive

dealer in cattle, many of which he fed and shipped. He accumulated a large property, his valuable farm containing three hundred and sixty-five acres of fertile land, the greater part of which was in a good state of cultivation and well improved. He was highly esteemed as a man and as a citizen and very popular with all classes of people, as testified by the large gathering of personal friends that attended his funeral, many of whom came from Aurora, Bristol and Yorkville. He was familiarly known as "Barny" by his host of friends, and as such will long be remembered. In politics he was a Jacksonian Democrat, and although he had served on the school board much of his active life, he persistently refused other public office.

December 25, 1851, Mr. McKanna married Harriet McCloud, who was born near Rutland, Vt., a daughter of Charles and Harriet (Kendall) McCloud, who removed from Vermont to Kendall County, Ill., in 1850. Mrs. McCloud died in Seward October 18, 1855, and her husband's death occurred in Odell, Livingston County, in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. McCloud reared six children, as follows: Harriet, now Mrs. McKanna; Emily, deceased, who married Samuel Trowbridge, of Minooka; Sarah, wife of Milton McLean, of Pittsburg, Kans.; John, who died in 1851, aged twenty years; William, a farmer in Livingston County; and Calista, wife of David Boyer, of Lisbon Township. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. McKanna eight children were born, namely: Frances, who died at the age of eighteen months; Kate, the wife of Michael Mann (who manages the home farm), and the mother of one son, Clinton J. Mann; Francis M., who died when six years old; Blanche, the wife of George Baker, of Seward Township, and who has two children, Murray and Clifford; Margaret, wife of Frank Cryder, of Grundy County, and the mother of two children, Henry and Florence; Nettie, who married Fred Baker, of Seward Township, and has two children, Ruth and Frank; Minnie, the wife of Elisha Brown, of Plainfield, Ill.; and Florence, who married Bert McCauley, of Na-au-say Township, this county, and has a daughter, Mary. Four of these daugh-

ters were engaged in teaching in Kendall and adjoining counties during their younger days, Blanche having been a music teacher. Mrs. McKanna still resides on the old homestead, in the family of her daughter, Mrs. Mann.

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JOHN M. NADEN, deceased, was born in Derbyshire, England, April 13, 1816, a son of Samuel and Martha (Millner) Naden. In 1842 he crossed the ocean, coming direct to Kendall County, Ill., where for a few years he worked on a farm in Lisbon Township. The reports he sent back to his old home gave his parents such a favorable impression concerning Illinois that they decided to seek a new home here. He sent them money for the trip, and in 1846 they joined him in Big Grove Township, settling on section 13, where he secured one hundred and sixty acres, the greater part of which was government land. He remained with his parents until his marriage, which took place September 17, 1852, and united him with Elizabeth Broadbent, a native of England, born in Cheshire July 11, 1834. She was one of the two daughters of Joshua and Margaret Broadbent, the latter of whom died in 1841, when Elizabeth was seven years of age. In 1842 the father brought his two daughters to the United States and settled in Ford County, Ill., where he spent his remaining years. His death occurred at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Anne Shoemaker, in July, 1881, when he was seventy-six years of age.

After his marriage John M. Naden settled on a farm in Big Grove Township, and there he remained until his death, April 13, 1864. An earnest Christian and an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church, his home was the stopping place of pioneer ministers of that denomination, and his services were ever at the call of preachers and other religious workers. Prospered as a farmer and stock-raiser, he became the owner of four hundred and twenty acres of good land, which through his efforts was placed under good cultivation. In his community he was well and favorably known, and his death was deeply mourned. His wife survived him for



many years, making her home in later life with her son, John M., Jr., where she died January 7, 1900. Of her children we note the following: Mary M. is the widow of George Brown, of Big Grove Township; Sarah J. is the wife of Elmer Bushnell, of the same township; Maria J. married W. Gubel, of Sycamore, Ill.; Samuel is a farmer in Big Grove Township, where John M., Jr., also resides; and the youngest, James D., is farming in Lisbon Township.

The brothers and sisters of our subject were Samuel, Thomas, Henry, Philip, Isaac, Obadiah, Mary and Rebecca. Of these, Samuel, Henry and Obadiah settled in Kendall County. Later Samuel went to Chicago, where he spent his closing years with his daughter, Mrs. Mary Fowler; Obadiah is living retired in Morris, Ill.; Thomas makes his home in Lisbon Township; Isaac died in Osage, Iowa, in the spring of 1900; Philip went to California at the time of the discovery of gold and was killed in the mines; Mary is the wife of Joseph Buckley, of Joliet, Ill.; and Rebecca, deceased, was the wife of Thomas Fletcher, of Kendall County.

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**S**AMUEL NADEN, who is a lifelong resident of Kendall County and a member of a prominent pioneer family, is a progressive citizen and a substantial farmer. He is the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of valuable land, in the cultivation of which he has been engaged for a goodly portion of his active life. Besides the management of this place he is a member of the Millington Live Stock Company, extensively engaged in the feeding and shipping of stock. He is also assessor of Big Grove Township.

A son of John M. and Elizabeth (Broadbent) Naden, the subject of this article was born at the old Naden homestead, on section 11, Big Grove Township, July 29, 1858. He grew to manhood on the farm where he was born. The district schools furnished him with the rudiments of his education, after which he attended the schools of Aurora and Naperville. November 1, 1884, he married Nellie M., daughter of Henry and Cather-

ine (Vreeland) Page, natives respectively of Hartford, Conn., and Staten Island. She was born in Kendall County, where her parents settled about 1850.

After marriage Mr. Naden bought one hundred and sixty acres of the home place, lying on section 11, and there he engaged in feeding stock and raising grain and corn. March 1, 1897, he bought his present tract, which then comprised three hundred and twenty acres, the old Scofield farm, and to it he has added a tract of one hundred and sixty acres. He is extensively engaged in stock-feeding, and consumes more grain than he raises. For twenty years or more he has been interested in buying, shipping and dealing in stock, and has perhaps handled as much stock as any man in the county. Since the organization of the Millington Live Stock Company he has been connected with it as a stockholder.

Politically he is a staunch Republican. For eight successive years he has been township assessor. He is a ready and efficient worker for his party and has been a member of the county central committee, also a delegate to local and state conventions. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and Orient Lodge No. 323, A. F. & A. M., in which he has been past-master. In his family there are two children: Edith J. and Harry J. His sound business knowledge and judgment have not only made him an efficient assessor, but have also brought his services into demand in the settlement of estates as administrator and executor.

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**E**DWIN HOLT. Among the solid and substantial citizens who have contributed largely toward placing Kendall County in the prominent position it now holds in the commonwealth of Illinois, Mr. Holt, a prosperous farmer of Seward Township, is one of the foremost. A son of the late John Holt, he was born November 2, 1841, in Charlesworth, Derbyshire, England, where he received his early education.

John Holt, the son of Theophilus Holt, a large manufacturer of woolen goods, spent his earlier years in England, where he was extensively en-



gaged in manufacturing cotton fabrics, being located at Charlesworth. He was very successful, financially, until business reverses incidental to the panic of 1842 and 1843 compelled him to retire from that industry. In 1844 he emigrated with his family to America, settling in Slatersville, R. I., where he again engaged in the cotton manufacturing business. In 1856 he removed to Kendall County, where he made a first purchase of forty acres of the land now included in the homestead of his son Edwin. With the exception of having been broken, the land was void of improvements, having neither buildings nor fences.

With the assistance of his son, he made valuable improvements on his property, placing it in a yielding condition, and for many years was very prosperous in his agricultural labors. As he accumulated money he invested it in realty until he became the owner of three hundred acres of good farming land. Thoroughly identified from the first with the best interests of his adopted country, he proved himself a most active and valuable citizen, and filled with credit various offices of trust, including that of justice of the peace, tax collector and school director. While living in his native country he married Mary Jackson, who bore him two children, namely: Sarah A., who died in England, at the age of fourteen years; and Edwin, the subject of this sketch. The parents spent their last years on the home farm, in Seward Township, both passing to the life beyond in the year 1891, the death of the father occurring April 20, and that of the mother on December 25.

Edwin Holt worked with his father in the Slatersville mills until coming to Seward Township, when he assisted in redeeming a farm from the uncultivated prairie, working hard during the summer seasons, but in the winter terms pursuing his studies at the district school, thus adding to the knowledge he had acquired in the English schools. Upon reaching man's estate, he, being an only child, remained with his parents, and

gradually assumed the entire management of the parental homestead, which has become his by inheritance. A systematic, thorough-going farmer, he has been unusually prosperous in all of his undertakings, and, having made extensive purchases, is now the possessor of six hundred and forty acres of land, lying on sections 34, 35 and 36. The improvements which he has made are of a high order, comparing favorably with the best in the county, including among others the erection, in 1898, of a handsome, conveniently-arranged residence. In his political affiliations he is a Republican, and for a number of years has rendered his fellow-townsmen valuable service as highway commissioner. Much credit is due him for the interest he has taken in the matter of good roads throughout the township, he having been the first to agitate the subject, and set on foot the movement that has resulted in the building of hard roads in this locality, one of the greatest improvements the community can boast.

January 23, 1870, Mr. Holt married Olive Wardle, who was born in Rhode Island, of English parentage. Her parents, John and Olive (Gee) Wardle, had a family of seven children, as follows: Ann, wife of Nathan Chatterton, of Woonsocket, R. I.; Henry, who married Sarah Bottomly, and lives in Woonsocket; Ellen, residing in Chicago, and the widow of the late George Walling; Joshua, of Slatersville, R. I., a retired manufacturer; Joel, of Chicago, Ill., who first married Mary Blue, and after her death married Bridget Kirby; Willie, who died at the age of eight years; and Olive, now Mrs. Holt. Neither Mr. or Mrs. Wardle is living, he having passed away at the age of ninety-one years, and she when eighty-two years old. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Holt seven children have been born, namely: Sarah Ann, wife of William Murphy, of Minooka, Ill.; John, who resides on the home farm; Ida May, living at home; Eliza Jane, wife of Lewis Lager, of Joliet, Ill.; William E.; Edward L.; and Olive Columbia.





*Dr R Shaw*

Photo by Benensohn, Yorkville, Ill.



## WARD R. SHAW.

WARD R. SHAW, who has done much for the upbuilding of Fox Township, has been a resident here since 1871 and a valuable and prominent factor in the agricultural life of Kendall County. During the years of his residence in this locality he has gained a name that is a synonym for all that is honest and sincere. The farm which he owns consists of one hundred and sixty-eight acres of fine land and is devoted to the raising of grain and of stock. In stock his specialties are graded red Polled cattle, and he also has registered Duroc Jersey swine and a number of fine horses. Few are more fond than he of a good horse and some of his happiest hours are those spent behind a pair of fancy animals. Since he settled on his farm he has done much to improve its condition. He has rebuilt and improved the residence and has erected all of the outbuildings except the old crib and one small barn. By industry and good judgment he has acquired a competence; this too in spite of a number of reverses at different times in his life, but these have only served to make him more determined to work his way upward to permanent success.

During colonial days the Shaw family was established in America. The date of their emigration to this country is not definitely known. For years they were residents of Dutchess County, N. Y. On the other side of the house, our subject's grandmother, Catherine E. Reed, was born within four miles of Dublin, Ireland, and accompanied her parents to the United States in girlhood. George R. Shaw, our subject's father,

is a native of New York, where he now owns a farm of two hundred and forty acres. In politics he votes with the Democrats. He is especially interested in church work and for years served as a local preacher in the Methodist Church, besides taking a deep interest in the Sunday-school. His first marriage was to Amy Maria Rickey, by whom he had five children, viz.: Ward R.; Kate, wife of Curtis Wixson, of Orange County, N. Y.; Julia, who married C. W. Bogardus, of Dutchess County, N. Y.; Sarah, who lives in New York City; and Georgiana, who is engaged in missionary work in New York City. By his second wife, who was Susan Wilcox, Mr. Shaw had eleven children, all but three of whom are still living.

After having spent his youth in helping his father on the home farm our subject came west at the age of twenty-two, and became a farmer of Fox Township, Kendall County. For nearly four years he worked for others, at the end of which time he established himself on his present farm. He has done much to raise the standard of education in his district, having served efficiently as school director for fourteen years and as school trustee for nine years. The principles of the Democratic party receive his staunch support and he has been active in its local affairs, and has been a delegate to county and state conventions. Fraternally he is connected with Sunbeam Lodge No. 428, A. F. & A. M., in Plano; Sandwich Chapter No. 107, R. A. M., at Sandwich; and Aurora Commandery No. 22, K. T., at Aurora. He was united in marriage, Febru-

ary 10, 1874, with Miss Susan A. Whitfield, daughter of William Whitfield, whose biography appears in this work. They have two children, William G. and Nellie A. Their son is a graduate of the Yorkville high school and also attended the Indiana State Normal School at Valparaiso one year.

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**PETER CROOK.** In every movement to advance the welfare of Seward Township or the prosperity of Kendall County, Mr. Crook has always been interested. It may be justly said of him that he has contributed his quota to all worthy enterprises. Especially have both he and his wife maintained a deep interest in religious work. They were charter members of the Congregational Church near their home and contributed to its maintenance liberally. Their connection with the church continues to the present. He was a member of the building committee at the time of the erection of the church edifice and was also one of the largest contributors to the same. He has been a trustee ever since the church was established and a deacon for more than half of that time, also has had charge of the singing. For many years he has been a teacher in the Sunday-school and one of its most faithful workers.

A native of Dukinfield, Cheshire, England, born August 28, 1837, our subject is a son of Lawrence and Mary Ann (Brooks) Crook. His father, who was an overseer of looms in a cotton factory in England, visited Illinois about 1856 and bought land in Seward Township, Kendall County. In 1860 he brought his family to this place, and here he remained until his death, by accident, in 1866. Of his four children our subject is the third and the only one now in Kendall County. When he was fifteen he began to learn the machinist's trade, at which he served a six-years' apprenticeship. However, the work did not agree with him, and he was obliged to seek a more healthful occupation. In 1859 he came to America and began to clear the land previously bought by his father. With his brother, who had preceded him a year, he helped to get the

land under cultivation and also erected needed buildings. After his mother's death he bought out the interests of the other heirs in the eighty acres, and has since been sole owner of the homestead. He has added to his holdings until he now has two hundred and forty acres of well-improved land. He has put in not less than two thousand rods of tiling, so that the land is well drained. Besides raising farm produce he has engaged in dairying, in which he has been successful.

Politically Mr. Crook has always supported the Republican party. He has been delegate to local conventions and also, in 1900, to the state supervisors' convention at Quincy. In 1873 he was elected town clerk and appointed school treasurer, which latter office he held for twenty years, while the former position he filled for twelve years. In 1893 he was elected supervisor, in which capacity he served the next seven years. In no sense has he ever been an office-seeker. He never solicited a vote for any office, so that his elections to responsible positions show the high esteem in which he has been held by his fellow-citizens. While he has given his attention closely to the management of his estate he has also taken various trips for pleasure and recreation, the most noteworthy of these being the visit by himself and wife, in 1898, to his old home in England, where he remained for four months, not only renewing the associations of boyhood, but also visiting many points of historic interest.

In 1862 Mr. Crook married Sarah Walton, who was born in Cheshire, England, and grew to womanhood there. They became the parents of five children, but their two daughters died while young. Their sons are: David C. and George L., who assist their father in cultivating the home farm; and John W., who operates a farm directly across the road from his father's place. Mrs. Crook is a daughter of George and Mary (Castle) Walton, of English birth, natives of Yorkshire. They had ten children, of whom Sarah is the eldest, and seven are now living. In 1840 Mr. Walton settled at Bellville, Canada, and his wife followed the next year. At this



time the eldest child was seven years old, and she remained with her grandparents. Seven of the children were born in Canada, where the parents lived the balance of their lives.

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**JULIUS A. FREEMAN, M. D.** There is perhaps no physician in Kendall County who is better known than Dr. Freeman, of Millington, and certainly there are few who possess a broader knowledge of the science of therapeutics in all of its departments. His medical library is one of the most complete in Illinois, and he has made himself the master of its contents. At the same time he has utilized in his own practice such of its theories as seem to be sound, it being his aim ever to keep abreast with the development and progress of the profession. The leading medical societies he has been identified with, among them the Illinois State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the North-Central Illinois Medical Association, and the Aurora and LaSalle County Medical Societies. In Masonry he also stands very high, being a thirty-second degree Mason, and a member of Hesperia Lodge No. 411, A. F. & A. M.; Oriental Consistory, Chicago; Sandwich Chapter, R. A. M., at Sandwich; and Commandery No. 10, K. T., at Ottawa, Ill. He is also a member of Lodge No. 162, I. O. O. F., at Newark, Ill.

The genealogy of the Freeman family is traced back several hundred years in England, where they were leading residents of Devon, and their coat-of-arms indicates their prominence. Dr. Freeman was born March 9, 1828, in Worcester, Otsego County, N. Y., being the eldest of the thirteen children of Frederick R. and Lucy R. (Beeman) Freeman. His father was born on the same farm as himself and was the youngest in the family of thirteen children of Elisha and Lydia (Reynolds) Freeman. The first male ancestor on American soil came to Nova Scotia in 1630. In the fall of 1828 the family moved to LaGrange, Ohio, where Dr. Freeman spent his youth and early manhood. He commenced the study of

medicine at Birmingham, Ohio, under his uncle, Julius Beeman, M. D., who died in Cleveland, Ohio, at the age of about ninety-two years. In the fall of 1851 he entered Central Medical College at Rochester, N. Y. Later he became a student in the American Medical College at Cincinnati, where he received the degree of M. D., in February, 1855. Next he took a course in Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York City. In the winter of 1876-77 he attended the Chicago Medical College, from which he received an honorary degree. In 1878 he took a course of special study in the Post-Graduate College of New York City. He also took a post-graduate course in Chicago Medical College, now the medical department of the Northwestern University; in the Chicago Polytechnic Medical School; the Post-Graduate College of Chicago; and in 1888 the Post-Graduate College of New York, from all of which institutions he has diplomas. It will thus be seen that his course of study had been thorough and exhaustive. He has spared neither time nor money in his ambition to gain a complete knowledge of medicine, and certainly the science has no disciple more faithful or more intelligent than he.

His first experience as a practitioner Dr. Freeman gained at Newark, Ill., where he opened an office in August, 1852. During the next few years he established his reputation for skill and broad professional knowledge and built up a large practice in the vicinity of his home. He remained in Newark until the spring of 1875 and then spent two and one-half years in Chicago, after which he came to his present place of practice, Millington. He was married in September, 1849, to Miss Lucy S. Spellman, of Pittsford, N. Y. They became the parents of eight children, but only three are living, namely: Rev. Corwin Freeman, a minister in the Baptist Church; Vesper V., who lives in Trenton, Mo.; and Herbert H., of Pierre, S. Dak. The second marriage of Dr. Freeman took place in 1874, and united him with Mrs. Emma C. Cox, by whom he has one son, Harry E., who has adopted his father's profession for his life work.

Any sketch of Dr. Freeman would be incom-



plete were no mention made of his military career. At the opening of the Civil war he raised a company for the Eighth Illinois Cavalry and in August, 1861, went to the front as captain of Company K. This company he commanded until December of the same year, when they went into winter quarters. He then resigned and resumed his professional work. In August, 1862, he again went to the front as assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Infantry, and remained in that position until July, 1863, when he was obliged to resign on account of sickness. His next enlistment was in September, 1864, when he became assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Sixth New York Infantry, with which he remained until the regiment was mustered out a few months later.

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**T**HOMAS J. PHILLIPS. The list of Kendall County pioneers includes the name of Mr. Phillips, the well-known retired farmer and wagon-maker residing in Newark. He descends from Revolutionary ancestry and Pennsylvania pioneers. His grandfather, Thomas Phillips, who was born in Northumberland County, and died in Erie County, Pa., had eight children, viz.: John, James, Thomas, David, Hannah, Eleanor, Betsey and Polly. Of these, James, our subject's father, was born in Northumberland County, Pa., November 12, 1768, and for years followed the blacksmith's trade and kept a tavern. At Lancaster, Pa., in 1798, he married Catherine Funk, who was born in 1776, and whose father, Henry Funk, a miller, ground flour for the Continental army. By his marriage ten children were born: Betsey, John, Benjamin, Henry, Martha, Jacob, David, Ann, James D. and Thomas Jefferson, of this sketch. In 1827 James Phillips took his family to Erie County, where his brother, John, had previously settled. He remained there until his death, August 18, 1844. His wife survived him many years, dying at Aurora, Ill., in 1863.

Of the children forming the parental family, one son, Jacob, died in infancy, and another at

eleven years. Elizabeth, the oldest, was born in 1799, and married Frederick Hyatt, of Prescott, Wis.; both are deceased. John, who lived in Fox Township or in Big Grove Township from 1834 to 1849, laid out the town of Newark in 1836, in connection with George B. Hollenback, and gave it the name of Georgetown, which it bore until 1843; he died in 1849. Benjamin, who was a cabinet-maker and carpenter, settled in Aurora in 1835, and died there in 1867. Henry, who came to Illinois in 1834, built the fourth building put up in Ottawa, the site being that now occupied by the Clifton house; in that building he followed the blacksmith's trade. In 1850 he went to California overland, and remained there until 1854. The year 1855 found him in Story County, Iowa, where he died about 1873. Martha died, unmarried, at fifty-eight years of age. Ann married James Phillips in Pennsylvania and came to Illinois in 1834, settling in Earl, LaSalle County, where she died April 7, 1896, aged eighty-two years. James D. came to Illinois, but returned to Pennsylvania, and died at Union City, January 25, 1892, aged seventy-six years. Two of the brothers, Benjamin and Henry, started west in the fall of 1833, and went down the Ohio River to Louisville, Ky., where they spent the winter. In the spring of 1834 they came up the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to Ottawa, where Benjamin remained a short time and built a few houses. Henry settled there, but subsequently located in Earl.

The subject of this sketch was born in Lancaster, Pa., October 28, 1818. In April, 1838, he started to join his elder brothers in Illinois. After a journey of three weeks he reached Illinois and visited his brothers in Newark and Aurora, and for six months he worked in the latter place. He then came to Fox Township, Kendall County, where his brother John had taken a claim in 1836. This claim his brother offered to share with him, if he would assist him until the land came into the market. The offer was accepted. John was a wagon-maker and Thomas served with him for three years, receiving forty-five acres of land. He then began for himself, renting the little farm and following the wagon-

maker's trade until 1857, when he came into possession of a farm on section 34, Fox Township. The latter place remained his home five years. Next he bought the Washburn farm in Mission Township, LaSalle County, and engaged in farming there until the fall of 1877, when he moved to Newark, his present home.

During early days Mr. Phillips experienced all the hardships of frontier life. Until the Q Railroad was built, he hauled produce by wagon to Chicago. In those days thirty cents was a fair price for wheat and three cents was considered good for dressed pork. Mr. Phillips recalls that on one occasion he and others had hauled their pork to Chicago. All were paid \$3 per hundred for the pork, except Thomas Finnie, who had the best hogs in the country and was paid \$3.25. The latter, elated at the price paid, slapped Mr. Phillips on the shoulder and exclaimed, "Oh! Phillips, we are on the road to prosperity now, when we can get \$3 for our pork."

The first vote of Mr. Phillips was cast for Martin Van Buren, and he continued to vote the Democratic ticket until the slavery question came to the front, when he espoused Republican principles. It is a notable fact that he and his father have voted at every presidential election, his father having voted for George Washington and at all subsequent elections to that of Van Buren, while our subject has voted at all subsequent elections. At the solicitation of his friends Mr. Phillips consented to serve as justice of the peace. He was also assessor of Fox Township eleven consecutive years, and in that position the amount of assessable property perceptibly increased under his discerning eye.

Though now well-to-do, Mr. Phillips has met with his share of reverses. In religious matters he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church from nineteen years of age until the Congregational Church of Newark was organized, when both himself and wife united with it, and he served on its official board. After some years, however, the organization practically disbanded, and since then he and his wife have attended and supported the other churches. The temperance cause has in him an earnest supporter, but he is

not a believer in the third party. When he was a boy liquor was almost as plentiful as water. It was to be seen in almost every home and on almost every table. Notwithstanding this fact he has ever been strictly opposed to its use. Not only has he refrained from its use, but he has also shunned tobacco in every form, and has insisted that in his family and among his hired help, profane language should never be used. As a consequence his sons grew to manhood in surroundings that were most uplifting, and they have become as strict as their father in their adherence to temperance principles and upright living.

February 15, 1844, Mr. Phillips was married to Louisa P., daughter of Cornelius and Harriet (Bailey) Courtright, the wedding being solemnized in the log cabin home of the bride at Newark. She was born in Wilkesbarre, Luzerne County, Pa., January 27, 1829. Her parents were natives of the same county, her father born May 28, 1803, and her mother December 2, 1805. The former was a tanner and currier by trade. In May, 1839, he started via the lakes from Buffalo to Chicago, thence traveling to LaSalle County within five miles of Ottawa, where an old neighbor had settled a year before. In August the parents, with their six children, came to Kendall County and spent the winter in the old hotel at Newark, owned by Nelson Messenger, which stood on the site of the present store of Pleuss & Miller. Thirty-two members of different families wintered in that old hotel. In the spring of 1840 the family selected a location in town, buying a lot now owned by Myron Reynolds, and there building a log cabin. Later he took up government land in LaSalle County, in what is now Northville Township, selecting eighty acres on which he built a house and spent a season. He then sold out and bought a farm between Millington and Sheridan, residing there until 1878, and then returning to Newark, where he died September 7, 1894. Both he and all of his sons espoused the Republican cause, and in religion adhered to the Methodist Episcopal Church. His first wife, the mother of Mrs. Phillips, died March 22, 1851, and afterward he



married Mrs. Susanna Lutyens, the widow of Artemus Lutyens. Of his first marriage eleven children were born, Mrs. Phillips being the eldest. It is a noteworthy fact that all of these eleven are still living, their ages ranging from fifty-one to seventy-two years. John M. is living in Minneapolis; Roxana, widow of Peter Misner, lives at Sandwich, Ill.; Horace P. is engaged in the livery business at Downer's Grove, Ill.; Lydia B. is the wife of John Ruble, of Hanson County, S. Dak.; Benjamin B. drives a stage between Newark and Millington; Harriet A. is the wife of Peter McKay, of Pasadena, Cal.; Caroline A. is the wife of Robert Abbott, who is engaged in the produce commission business at Davenport, Iowa; Cornelius C., a retired farmer, lives in Sandwich, Ill.; Charles O. has been a physician at Somonauk, Ill., for many years; and Chester O. resides in Minneapolis, Minn.

In all of her husband's work Mrs. Phillips has been his counselor and assistant, and much of his success is due to her co-operation. She is a lady of benevolent disposition, interested in the moral and social upbuilding of the community. Besides, she possesses considerable ability as a writer. For some years she has acted as local correspondent for various papers, a position for which she is well qualified. In her housekeeping arrangements she has always been very methodical, keeping an account of expenses during almost all of their married life. In addition, she has recorded facts of local interest in a diary. Thus she is an authority for local events of the past sixty years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Phillips retain to an unusual degree their mental and physical vigor, and both have remarkable memories of events and dates connected with the past. Their golden wedding was appropriately celebrated in 1894, at which time more than seventy relatives and old friends gathered at their comfortable home and joined in extending congratulations and best wishes.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Phillips consists of eleven children, viz.: Jefferson, who died at four years of age; Quincy and Milton, who died in infancy; Carson E., a civil engineer in Springfield, Mo.; Ida R., wife of Sylvanus Fowler, of

Aurora, Ill.; Leslie S., who for eleven years was employed in the Minneapolis postoffice and died March 26; 1898, leaving a wife and son; Thomas L., who is the inventor of the Aurora feed grinder and resides in Aurora, Ill.; Carrie L., who died at thirteen months; Minnie J., wife of J. C. Seaton, of Somonauk, Ill.; Louise, wife of Alfred Harding, of Aurora; and Charles B., who is proprietor of a job printing establishment at Aurora that is one of the largest in the state, outside of Chicago.

JAMES PLATT. None of the farmers of Seward Township, Kendall County, is more deserving of success than Mr. Platt. Through all of his active life he has been known as an industrious, efficient and energetic farmer, and the prosperity that has come to him is the result of these qualities. He personally oversees every detail of work connected with the farm, managing the various hands and the ten horses that during the busy seasons are engaged to assist in the work. He raises each year about six thousand bushels each of corn and oats, for all of which he finds a ready sale in the market.

In Hewton Moor, near Manchester, England, Mr. Platt was born August 13, 1848. His father, Thomas Platt, came to America in 1858 and settled in Kendall County, Ill., buying one hundred and sixty acres in Seward Township, about five miles southwest of our subject's present residence. From the time of coming here until his retirement from active work he gave his attention closely to the improving of his land, and even now, though eighty years of age, he personally superintends his own farm. In politics he is a Republican. Prior to leaving England he married Anna Bostic. Of their union seven children were born, four now living, James being the only one now living in Kendall County, with the exception of William, a farmer of Seward Township, and during the Civil war a soldier in the Eighty-ninth Illinois Infantry.

The education of Mr. Platt was begun in England and continued in district schools in Kendall



County. When twenty-one years of age he began farming on shares, operating thirty acres and also running a corn sheller. For five years he continued in that way. He then bought forty acres and rented the balance of the land (one hundred and twenty acres), owned by his wife's father, which property he cultivated for three years. On selling out he bought eighty acres south of the road where he now resides, paying \$40 an acre for the same. Three years later he sold it for \$52.50 per acre. He then bought one hundred and sixty acres where he now lives, paying \$53 an acre. The land was fertile, but there were no improvements on the place. At once he started to put it in better condition. He erected all the buildings now to be seen, and also put in several miles of tiling, having now on his two farms seven miles of this improvement. All in all, the place is now as finely improved as any in the township. About 1890 he bought one hundred and sixty acres adjoining, for which he paid \$65 an acre. Besides raising farm products he gives some attention to the stock business. On his farm are some cattle and a large number of Poland-China swine. He is fortunately situated in regard to markets, having three at about equal distance from his farm, Minooka, Bird's Bridge and Caton Farm.

The marriage of Mr. Platt united him with Ellen J. Skinner, September 13, 1868. They have two children, viz.: Fremont, who is a farmer in Seward Township; and Luella, wife of Albert Brown, also of this township. The father of Mrs. Platt, William Skinner, was a native of Cambridgeshire, England, and came to the United States when twenty years of age. In 1842 he settled in Cook County, Ill., where he took up government land and improved a farm. The tract that he improved is now in the very heart of Chicago. In 1856 he came to Kendall County, after a short sojourn in Will County, and bought a farm on section 8, Seward Township, giving \$600 for the eighty-acre tract, a yoke of oxen and such few improvements as were on the place. A few years before his death he sold that property and bought a tract just east, where he remained until his death, in August, 1868. He

was a Republican and held some of the township offices. By his marriage to Sarah Bennett he had eight children, of whom Mrs. Platt is the only one living in Kendall County. Mr. and Mrs. Platt are active members of the Congregational Church and she holds office as president of the Ladies' Aid Society. Politically Mr. Platt is a Republican, and on that ticket he has been elected path master and school director. He carries insurance in the Mutual Aid Society. He is a man of high character and deservedly stands among the foremost farmers of his township.

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**B**ERNELL, B. LARSON, who is an enterprising business man of Millbrook, Kendall County, was born in Vos, Norway, June 25, 1859. His father, Lars O. Bolstad, was a stock-buyer in the town of Bolstad, and adopted that name as his own. In 1875, crossing the ocean to the United States, he settled in Kendall County, Ill., where at once he became interested in farming. In 1886 he removed from the farm to Millbrook, Fox Township, where now, at the age of eighty years, he is living in retirement from business cares. His wife is about the same age as himself. Of their ten children six are living, namely: Carrie, wife of Ole Starkson, of Rochester, Olmsted County, Minn.; Ole B., whose sketch appears on another page; Nels B., of Chicago; B. B., our subject; Christina, who married David Galofson and resides in Portland, Ore.; and Belle, who is the wife of August Galofson, and lives in Marshfield, Ore.

When he came with his parents to America our subject was not quite sixteen years of age. For seven years he was employed as a farm hand in the town of Kendall, and for two subsequent years in Lisbon and Fox Townships. He then came to Millbrook and associated himself with his brother, O. B. Larson, first as an employe, but after two years he assumed the management of the grain department of the business, and this he has since conducted alone. At the same time his brother gives his attention to the store, the two lines of work being too much for one man

alone. The business has increased steadily under his careful oversight, and in 1899 he shipped four hundred and seventy-six cars of grain. Since 1896 he has also handled Wisconsin lumber, in which he is building up a good trade. He also deals in coal and salt.

The political affiliations of Mr. Larson are with the Republican party. He was reared in the Lutheran faith, and is a believer in the doctrines of this church. His marriage took place February 27, 1894, and united him with Christina S. Ringham, of Kendall County. They have two daughters: Ruth Bertina and Esther Sophia. Mrs. Larson was born near her husband's birthplace May 12, 1868. She came to Illinois in 1889, and in 1896 her parents, Stork and Bertha Ringham, followed her, and now reside with her.

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**G**EORGE FORDHAM TREMAIN. This well-known farmer of Kendall County owns eighty acres on section 11 and eighty on section 3, Lisbon Township, his home being on the former tract. He was born in Warren, Herkimer County, N. Y., April 6, 1837, a son of William A. and Harriet (Reed) Tremain, natives of New York. His father was born March 31, 1810, and died in Kendall Township May 17, 1852. In early life he followed the tailor's trade in the village of Little Lakes, N. Y. With team and wagon and a small stock of dry-goods he traveled west in October, 1839, accompanied by his wife and two children, Elizabeth A., now the widow of Robert Lorimer, of Yorkville; and George F., who was then two and one-half years of age. The family spent the first winter in Kendall Township with S. G. Minkler, who had come to Kendall County in 1831.

Possessing the conservative ideas current in the east as to the amount of land necessary for a homestead, Mr. Tremain bought only six acres. A young man offered him sixty acres in exchange for board during the winter, but he thought the six acres enough and declined the offer. Soon, however, he had reason to change his views on

the subject. In 1846 he took up forty acres, which he improved, afterward dividing his time between farming and tailoring. His first house he built on the six-acre lot, it being a small one-and-one-half-story building put up in 1840. Seven years later he built a house on his larger tract on section 34, Kendall Township, and there he remained until his death in 1852. He was a Whig and an Abolitionist, and in religion belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church. His four children survive him: Mrs. Lorimer; our subject; Augusta (who resides with her mother in Plattville); and Ellen J., wife of Wallace McCloud, of Plattville.

During his boyhood our subject assisted his parents in endeavoring to clear the farm and gain from it a livelihood for the family. During winter months he attended neighboring schools. The death of his father left him, a youth of fifteen, the head of the family, in whose support he aided by working for wages. At the age of eighteen years he took charge of the home place. December 28, 1864, he married Keziah Platt, daughter of Daniel and Esther (Ricketson) Platt. He and his wife remained at the homestead until 1868, when he bought eighty acres, a part of his present farm, and has since devoted himself to general farming and the raising of horses. On this place he built a comfortable residence in 1895, and here he and his wife have a pleasant home. In politics he is not bound to any party, although in early life he favored Republican principles and has since espoused the cause of Prohibition. For twelve years he has served on the school board.

The oldest son of Mr. Tremain is Burton Platt Tremain, a member of the firm of Munson & Tremain, merchants of Plattville; he married Anna, daughter of James and Margaret Wylie, and a native of this county. The second son, Fred L., who operates the farm on section 3, married Jane, daughter of George Cress, and a native of this county. The only daughter, Mabel C., is the wife of Nels C. Munson, of Plattville. Ross C., the youngest of the family, was born February 10, 1877, and died when less than two months old.







*John Moore*

## JOHN MOORE, SR.

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JOHN MOORE, SR. In the annals of Kendall County the name of Moore occupies a prominent position, Horace Moore, Sr., and five of his children having been among the earliest settlers of Lisbon Township, and very important factors in the development of the agricultural, manufacturing and business interests. The family is of New England origin, James and Esther Moore, grandparents of John Moore, Sr., having spent the greater part of their lives in the Connecticut town in which their nine children, Horace, Jarvis, James, Lucinda, Schuyler, Eleazer, Esther, Martha and Warren, were born. Of these children, five followed the tide of emigration westward: Horace, Jarvis, Eleazer, Martha and Warren settling in Lisbon Township, Kendall County, Ill.

Horace Moore, Sr., was born in Connecticut in 1788, and there received his early education. When a young man, accompanied by a friend, with an axe on his shoulder and a knapsack on his back, he walked from Connecticut to Oneida County, N. Y., traveling much of the way through an unbroken wilderness. There, a few years later, he married Martha, daughter of John Cody, formerly of New England. In June, 1835, he made his first trip to Illinois, and in Kendall County chose for himself a tract of land lying between two rivers, staked out his claim in what is now Lisbon Township, taking up about eight hundred acres of land on sections 30 and 31. He then went home, and in the fall of that year returned with his family to Lisbon, where he was subsequently engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, in the year 1843. His good wife survived him six years. Of his children, two, Horace, Jr., and John, the subject of this sketch,

remained with their parents until the home farm was fenced and quite well improved, when each received a quarter section of land.

John Moore, Sr., made use of the land which he laid claim to by putting in thirty acres of fall wheat, which yielded well the next year after coming here, in the meantime continuing his residence beneath the parental roof-tree until his marriage. Locating, then, about one-eighth of a mile east of Lisbon, on the north side of the road, he there failed to find water, but finding that he could have a good well on the opposite side of the road he moved the house across, literally taking it to the well. After a few years he removed to the present site of the village of Lisbon (to the home now owned and occupied by his son, John Moore, Jr., who holds the original patent from the government), and here resided until his death, August 3, 1894, at the venerable age of eighty-three years, eleven months and six days, his birth having occurred August 27, 1810, in Vernon, Oneida County, N. Y. A man of excellent judgment and superior business ability, he was a most successful farmer, live-stock breeder and real-estate dealer, and was also largely interested in mercantile pursuits, having in 1841, in company with his brother Horace, established the general store and erected the building which forms a part of the present establishment of his son, John Moore, Jr., the firm name being J. & H. Moore. In 1860 his brother-in-law, Albert Keith, was admitted to partnership, remaining a member of the firm until his removal to Paxton, Ill., from whence he still attended to a part of the business, including the operations in land and grain. In 1862 Horace Moore withdrew from the firm, but the senior partner remained in act-

ive business until within two months of his death. Energetic and progressive, and honest above reproach, he was held in high respect throughout the community, in which he exercised a beneficial influence. Owning land on both sides of the street in that portion of the township that became incorporated as a village, he had the privilege of laying out the town, which he suggested should be called "Lisbon," that name being short, easily spelled and pronounced, and having no duplicate in the state.

In politics he was a Republican, but was never induced to accept office but once, when he became county sheriff, a position which he soon resigned. He was an active member of the Congregational Church, and, in addition to donating the ground for the First Congregational and Baptist Churches of Lisbon, offered to give the ground for the Methodist Episcopal Church, but as the offer was refused he sold the site to the church representatives.

In early manhood John Moore, Sr., married Sarah Tuttle, who died two years later, leaving no issue. On September 8, 1850, in Westmoreland County, N. Y., he married for his second wife Harriet M., daughter of George C. and Rhoda (Joslyn) Cody, and of this union two children were born, namely: Elsie, who died at the age of six years, and John, Jr.

John Moore, Jr., was born March 10, 1857, in the house where he now resides, it having been entirely remodeled and modernized since that time. Commencing his studies in the district schools, he completed them by taking a course at the commercial college of Bryant & Stratton. As soon as old enough he began assisting his father in the store, and on attaining his majority was admitted to partnership with his father, who had resumed business in 1879, after an interval of seventeen years, he and his brother having disposed of their goods, and rented their store in 1862. Mr. Moore still conducts the business, carrying a complete line of general merchandise, keeping in stock everything but agricultural implements, which he orders as needed. In the drug department he and two other registered pharmacists are kept busily employed, their trade and their pre-

scriptions being extensive. He has also large landed interests, owning a thousand acres of land in Kendall and Grundy Counties, four hundred acres of which he operates, employing four men in the store and four on the farm. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party, but has never accepted any office excepting that of president of the village board. Fraternally he is a member of Orient Lodge No. 323, A. F. & A. M.

January 13, 1879, Mr. Moore married Jennie, daughter of Daniel and Geraldine (Tuttle) Park, of Oneida County, N. Y. She passed to the higher life September 3, 1889. Mr. Moore was again married October 8, 1892, Emma Delight Hossack, of Ottawa, Ill., becoming his wife. Capt. Harry L. Hossack, Mrs. Moore's father, is a prominent business man of Ottawa, who, as captain of a company which he raised, participated in the late Civil war, serving on the western frontier until its close. He is now engaged in mercantile trade as a dealer of agricultural implements of all kinds. To him and his wife, whose maiden name was Medora Tuttle, three children were born, namely: Emma Delight, now Mrs. Moore; Belle, who died in childhood; and Harry, who is in business with his father. Mr. and Mrs. Moore are both members of the Congregational Church.

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**EVI CASE GORTON.** One of the oldest residents of Kendall County, both in age and years of residence here, is the honored citizen whose name appears at the head of this article. Many points of interest to the general public, as well as to his numerous friends and admirers, have been gleaned and are subjoined.

The paternal ancestor of our subject, Samuel Gorton, came to America from England sixteen years after the Mayflower landed her first passengers on Plymouth Rock. Mr. Gorton, who was a man of advanced ideas in many respects for the times, and thus came into conflict with the Puritans of Massachusetts, finally received a grant of land and followed Roger Williams and other friends to Rhode Island. He was the first settler at Warwick, and some of his property is still in



the possession of his descendants. Several of his descendants participated in the Revolution, and our subject's father, Samuel Gorton, was a soldier in the war of 1812, serving in the capacity of a surgeon. He was considered one of the foremost men in his profession in western New York. He was a native of Rensselaer County, N. Y., and a son of Peleg Gorton, a wealthy farmer. Dr. Gorton was a student of astronomy, and when he died was about to publish a work relating to the influence of the moon upon tides. His services for years were in such great demand that he traveled to patients forty or fifty miles away. He died July 1, 1827, aged forty-five years, and of the five children born to himself and wife, Sophia (Case) Gorton, only one, Levi Case, survives. He is of the seventh generation from Samuel Gorton, founder of Warwick.

Levi Case Gorton was born in the vicinity of the present town of Corning, Steuben County, N. Y., October 20, 1809, and was left fatherless when he was about fourteen years old. He learned the business of a millwright, and after following that calling in New York state and in Maryland, in 1833 he decided to try his fortunes in the then new state of Illinois. Going as far as Buffalo by the canal he there embarked upon a ship bound for Detroit, Mich. He was accompanied by two young men, and they crossed Michigan with teams and on foot. It so happened that they met "Long" John Wentworth on the way and traveled with him for a period. The morning after their arrival in the unpromising village of Chicago the young men had breakfast with Mark Beaubien, who urged them to buy lots in the future city at \$200 apiece. Mr. Gorton laughed at the idea, and continued his search for a desirable location until he arrived in the neighborhood of the present town of Montgomery, on the Fox River. He bought a partially improved farm, the present site of Evans Park, and began improving the property. Forty acres of the land had been broken and a log cabin stood on the place, and a short time afterwards Mr. Gorton accepted a good price for the place and took a claim on the present site of Aurora, where he broke up ten acres. After trading this for

another claim, which he soon sold, he invested his capital in some land in Oswego. There he erected a flour-mill, the first one built between Aurora and the mouth of the river, and later aided in the construction of the first saw-mill put up in Aurora. For about three years he was actively engaged in the operation of his flour mill, in the meantime industriously carrying on the cultivation of his farm. He sold the mill property, and, after spending thirty years on farms near Oswego, he removed to his fine farm in Bristol Township, and this property he still owns. He personally attended to its cultivation from 1868 until he lost his eyesight in 1897, and two years later removed to the village of Bristol. With that exception he is hale and hearty and in the possession of all his faculties, his mind being keen and clear. His ambition has been little lessened by his extreme age, and he often feels aggrieved that his blindness prevents him from engaging in many of his former active pursuits.

Unquestionably Mr. Gorton took an important part in the upbuilding of Kendall County. Many a term he served as roadmaster, or as a member of the local school board or in other capacities, and he belonged to the first petit jury assembled in Kane County, Judge (later governor) Ford presiding. He also served as a member of the first grand jury convened in Kendall County, soon after its organization, and is the only survivor of that honorable body.

As his father before him was a Democrat, Mr. Gorton was affiliated with the same party until the organization of the Republicans into a political party, since which time he has loyally given it his support. Upon numerous occasions he attended county and local conventions, and always maintained deep interest in the deliberations of the public. In religious faith Mr. Gorton and his wife are Universalists.

The marriage of Mr. Gorton and Jane Townsend took place January 8, 1837. Her father, Claudius Townsend, a native of New York, was one of the first settlers in Tioga County, that state, and in 1835 came to this locality by team, settling near Oswego. He served as a surveyor, supervisor and in other local positions, and was

highly esteemed. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Gorton six children were born, and three of the number are yet living, namely: Susan; Charlotte, wife of Levi Shults, of Plano (see his sketch elsewhere in this work); and Thomas G., who resides in Bristol.

**A**BSALOM TOWNSEND SEELY. One of the honored citizens of Kendall County for the past forty-six years, Absalom T. Seely, of Yorkville, is well deserving of a place in the annals of this locality. During his entire maturity and prime he took an active and interested part in the development of this county, and in public positions he proved his devotion to the people and community in which his lot has been cast.

The grandfather of the above-named gentleman, Jonas Seely, was a native of Orange County, N. Y., and in the same locality his son, Peter, father of A. T. Seely, also was born. The latter was engaged in agricultural pursuits in his native county for several years, and later he was numbered among the stock commission merchants of New York City. In 1853 he came to Chicago, where he also was occupied in the same business for some years. Formerly a Whig, he later allied himself with the Republican party and performed his part in all public affairs. He survived his wife six years, his death taking place in the opening year of the Civil war. She bore the maiden name of Caroline Brown, and her father, Daniel Brown, a prominent citizen of Goshen, N. Y., was of Scotch descent. Of the five children of Peter and Caroline Seely, one son, Jonas, of Joliet, Ill., is engaged in the marble and stone-cutting business. Mrs. Helena Carpenter and Mrs. Tempy Ann Jessup, the daughters, are residents of Kendall County.

The birth of Absalom T. Seely took place in the town of Florida, near Goshen, N. Y., July 6, 1834, and when he was ten years old he became a resident of New York City, where he gained a practical education. He was about fifteen years old when he embarked in merchandising in the

great metropolis, and it was not until 1854 that he came to the west, and when he later came to Kendall County on a visit to some cousins he decided to make his permanent home here. He returned to his old home in the east in December, 1856, and remained there until the spring of 1858, when he came back, ready to turn his attention to farming.

Mr. Seely had made a good start in his new venture, and had already won the high respect of his fellow-citizens here, when the Civil war broke out, and his patriotic principles led to his offering his services to the Union cause. He enlisted May 7, 1861, in Company H, Thirteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was assigned with his regiment to the Fifteenth Army Corps. He then participated in the severe campaign of the Mississippi Valley, and fought valiantly in the battle of Pea Ridge, the siege of Vicksburg, and several Arkansas engagements with the enemy. At Vicksburg he became incapacitated for service by illness, and while he was at home, in December, 1863, he was granted an honorable discharge from the army. While his health was so impaired that it took several years to restore him to anything like his usual vigor or strength, he never applied for a pension, though he was well entitled to one. In the autumn of 1866 he engaged in the drug business on the north side of Yorkville, and three years later he removed to the center of the town, where he since has conducted a well-equipped store. In 1876 he bought the building which he has since occupied, and year by year his patronage has steadily increased.

While he is in no sense a politician, Mr. Seely is deeply interested in the success of the Republican party. He was appointed postmaster of North Yorkville in 1866, and in July, 1869, was honored with the postmastership of Yorkville proper. His business affairs requiring his full attention in the Centennial year, he resigned his public office and since that time he has refused all positions. Fraternally he is a member of Yorkville Post No. 522, G. A. R. His marriage to Miss Anna Tarbox, a native of Maine, took place January 3, 1877.







*H. S. Bethe*

## HENRY SEYMOUR BETHEL.

HENRY SEYMOUR BETHEL. The historian of Kendall County is impressed with the fact that a very large percentage of its most progressive citizens are from New York state, and undoubtedly much of the prosperity and prominence of this section is due to this element of eastern energy. The family to which Mr. Bethel belongs has been represented in America since 1630, and came from Scotland. An interesting fact in connection with Mr. Bethel's grandfather, John Bethel, is his impressment in the British navy during the war with Napoleon. After about nine months of service in that navy he obtained permission to go ashore at New York, and, having landed, deserted his late masters and did not return to the ship, thus forfeiting one hundred and fifty pounds, prize money. His brother, Thomas, was with him in the capture and the escape. Subsequently he engaged in farming and bought land near Antwerp, Jefferson County, N. Y., his deed for the property, under date of 1806, being the first paper of the kind made out in the town. Eight children were born to his union with Mary (or Polly, as she was usually called) Raven, a daughter of John Raven, an Englishman. During the Revolutionary war Mr. Raven was impressed into the English army and was serving under General Burgoyne at Saratoga, where he was wounded. He was cared for by an American soldier named Grooms, whose sister he afterward married. The Grooms family came to America with the duke of York.

The eldest of eight children, Peter, father of Henry S. Bethel, was born in Delaware County, N. Y., in 1802. He was endowed by nature with a strong mechanical talent and for many

years, when he was in his prime, was employed chiefly as a millwright. Later he operated a farm near Philadelphia, Jefferson County, N. Y. In 1855 he came via the lakes to Chicago, and thence to LaSalle County by team. After passing two years in that locality he settled upon a farm near Morris, Ill., and during the ensuing eighteen years conducted his homestead successfully. In 1875 he removed to the property now owned by our subject. Here he purchased two hundred and forty acres, on which he resided until his death, February 19, 1881.

The wife of Peter Bethel was Sophronia Asenath, daughter of Zenas and Asenath (Phelps) Watrous. The Watrous family came from Bristol, England, in 1630. Asenath Phelps was the daughter of Sylvanus Phelps, a colonel of the minute-men of Connecticut, and whose ancestors came to America in the Mayflower on her last trip in 1630. Some members of the family have served in each of the wars of our country, including the Indian wars of New England and the French and Indian war. The wife of Peter Bethel died August 29, 1877. She came of a long-lived race, as her mother lived to be ninety-five, and her grandmother was one hundred and two years old at the time of her death.

Henry Seymour Bethel was born in the town of Antwerp, Jefferson County, N. Y., March 1, 1834. In 1838 the family removed to Sterlingville, in the same county, remaining there until 1855. He was educated in the common schools and learned the occupations of millwright and civil engineering. In the spring of 1855 he preceded the family to Illinois and settled in LaSalle County. January 29, 1856, he married Mary Amelia Sherick, of Potter's Mills, Center



County, Pa., the daughter of Daniel and Harriet (Essington) Sherick. The Shericks came to Pennsylvania in an early day, with a colony of Monnese from Saxony, the Essingtons from England to New Jersey, to develop the iron interests for the landed proprietors.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bethel were born six children. Two died in infancy, three in early childhood, and only one, Emerson, attained mature years. He married Jessie Bethel, of Jefferson County, N. Y., and died in February, 1887, leaving his widow and three children, Mary Jane, Charles Hugh and Esther Amelia, who now constitute our subject's family on the homestead.

After coming west Mr. Bethel followed his trade for five years along the Fox River. In 1857 he purchased a farm in Grundy County, which he operated in addition to building bridges, etc. For about two years during the Civil war he was connected with the Citizens' civil engineering corps, attached to the army of the Cumberland, as foreman and master mechanic, engaged in building and repairing railroad bridges. Since then he has devoted himself exclusively to farming. In 1875 he removed from Grundy County to his present home in the town of Na-au-say, Kendall County, where he owns and operates a farm of two hundred and forty acres of good land, with fine buildings, and here he engages successfully in growing grain and raising stock. He finds good markets at towns of this vicinity for all the products of his farm.

When the Republican party was formed Mr. Bethel identified himself with it, but in 1873 he joined the liberal movement. For about three decades he has served his district as a school director, and at the same time has used his influence along all lines of progress. He is identified with the Patrons of Husbandry and the Sons of Temperance. Of the latter he became a member at the age of eighteen, and has faithfully kept the pledge ever since. A boyish pledge would not be regarded by many as binding, and his faithful keeping of it shows the character of the man, indicating his high regard for the truth, for his word and for what he believes to be a

worthy cause. In religion he is a member of the Presbyterian Church. He is very active in all Grange matters, working hard as committeeman and delegate. He is a believer in all movements tending, in his opinion, to better the interests of the farmer. In his character the principle of honor is strongly marked. He has a hatred for wrong and oppression wherever found. He is honored by all who know him for his uprightness of character; a man who after carefully forming his opinion never swerves from what he considers right; a man who dares to be true to his convictions.

**C**HARLES HENRY PLUESS. Those public-spirited citizens whose sound judgment has promoted the progress of their community and whose energy has brought an enlarged activity to every line of labor, deservedly occupy positions of prominence in local history. A volume wherein reference is made to leading men of Kendall County would be incomplete were no mention made of Mr. Pluess, of Millington, who is ranked as one of the most progressive men, not only of the village, but of the county also. As banker and merchant he is identified with the most important activities of the town. His success is of his own making. Accustomed to enterprises of magnitude, he is distinguished in business by breadth of views, quickness of perception and promptness of action, which qualities have been the means of bringing about his present high standing as a financier and business man.

Mr. Pluess was born in Prairie du Sac, Wis., March 23, 1861, a son of Jacob and Mary (Behrens) Pluess, natives respectively of Canton Aargal, Switzerland, and Hamburg, Germany. His father came to America in young manhood, crossing the ocean in 1853 in an old sailing vessel that consumed thirteen weeks in the voyage to New York. He went to Ohio, but six months later proceeded to Wisconsin, where he opened a shoemaker's shop and built up a large business, employing five or six men. He continued at the head of that business until he retired in 1885. Through his labors during those years he accum-



ulated a competency and is now comfortably situated. In politics he is a Republican, and in religion a member of the German Evangelical Church.

In Wisconsin, in 1857, Mr. Pluess married Mary Behrens, by whom he has three children: Rosa, wife of Jacob Meisser, who lives in the old home town; Charles H.; and Julius, who was born in 1863 and died in 1882, in Chicago, where he had previously been employed by the firm of J. H. Walker & Co.

The education of our subject was begun in public schools and completed, after a year as clerk in a local bank, in a business college. In 1879 he went to Chicago and entered the wholesale dry-goods house of A. T. Stewart & Co., where he remained until 1882, afterward taking a position with James H. Walker & Co. In August, 1884, he came to Millington and started a general mercantile business in company with Stephen H. Conger, a former schoolmate, under the firm name of Pluess & Conger, continuing in the same until December, 1888, when he sold his interest to his partner. Afterward he engaged as commercial traveler for a grocery house. On the death of his former partner he returned to Millington and bought back the business, which he has since conducted. His stock is valued at about \$10,000, and his sales amount to about \$30,000 annually. He is also a member of a mercantile firm in Newark, his partner being a young man who was clerk in his employ for ten years. In the store at Newark there is also a complete assortment of merchandise. In 1892 he bought the only brick business building in Millington, and here he has since conducted business. January 1, 1895, he formed a partnership with Walter Finnie and opened the Bank of Millington, the first institution of the kind ever organized in this place. The venture has proved a very successful one, and is also a great accommodation to the residents of the village. There is a branch of the bank in the store at Newark. In 1898 he erected a modern and beautiful residence, which is one of the most attractive in the entire county; it is equipped with the best improvements, including hot and cold water, furnace, and gas for lighting

and fuel. This beautiful home is presided over by Mrs. Pluess, an accomplished lady, who was Addie Finnie, daughter of Thomas Finnie, and who became the wife of Mr. Pluess June 22, 1892. In politics our subject is an active Republican and takes a warm interest in everything affecting the welfare of his party, but the demands of his business are such as to leave him no leisure for office-holding, although he would reflect credit upon his constituents in any position. He is a member of Sheridan Lodge No. 735, A. F. & A. M., at Sheridan, and Sandwich Chapter No. 107, R. A. M., at Sandwich.

**B. LARSON.** Some of the most enterprising citizens of northern Illinois are of Scandinavian birth or parentage. Combined with the admirable traits of their countrymen, they have the self-reliance and determination that are distinctively American; hence, as a rule, they attain a fair degree of success. As a representative of that race in Kendall County, mention belongs to Mr. Larson, the successful and popular merchant of Millbrook, and a resident of Kendall County since 1877. In the sketch of his brother, B. B. Larson, mention of the family will be found. He was born in Vos, Norway, September 17, 1847. When fourteen years of age he was apprenticed to learn the dyer's trade, and served five years at the same, after which he engaged in business on his own account in Tuesse, Norway, for four years.

When he was twenty-five years of age, in 1872, Mr. Larson came to America. His first location was in Chicago, where he carried on a tailoring shop. From there he went to Milwaukee. In the spring of 1877 he came to Millbrook, and, in company with K. B. Olson, bought the business he has since conducted. In 1880 he bought out his partner, since which time he has been alone. He carries a line of general merchandise and groceries, and has in stock a full assortment of dry-goods, boots and shoes, clothing, etc. He has enlarged his building by two additional rooms, in one of which he has his stock of gro-

ceries and in the other clothing. In 1885 he started in the grain business, which he carried on with his brother, Bernell B., for two years, but the details of the work consumed too much of his time, and he turned the business over to his brother.

The Republican party has received the support of Mr. Larson ever since he became a citizen of the United States, and he has frequently been a delegate to county conventions. For six years he held the office of school trustee. In religion he is a Methodist. October 20, 1877, he married Louise, daughter of Charles Gilmore, of Milwaukee, Wis. Her father came to America in 1840, and for a great many years was a captain on the lakes. Mr. and Mrs. Larson lost one son, Clarence, when he was eleven years of age. Their only surviving son, Alfred, assists his father in the store.

JOHN V. D. BRONK, whose home is located in section 35, Na-au say Township, Kendall County, comes from one of the representative old New York state families. His father, Ephraim Bronk, was reared in that state and there plied his trade of shoemaking until 1836, when he came to Illinois, making the long and tedious trip chiefly by way of the great lakes. Here he took up eighty acres of land, now included in the homestead of our subject, and by arduous labors reduced the place to cultivation. The house which he erected at that early day is yet standing in a good state of preservation, and the timbers of hewn wood and the studding of hand-sawed lumber are so hard to-day that it is practically impossible to drive a nail into them. He devoted his chief attention to the raising of grain, and much of this product he hauled to Chicago markets, the railroads and even the Illinois & Michigan canal not yet having been constructed. The Indians were very plentiful in this locality during the first years of his residence here, but they were peaceable. Deeply interested in educational matters, he did much for the cause, and this district was named in his honor. He served as a justice of the peace, and politically was identified with the Democrats until

the spirited campaign of 1860, when, after having heard a debate between Lincoln and Douglas at Ottawa, he became a firm adherent of the Republican party. He married a New York lady, Charlotte Van Dalson, and of their seven children two are deceased. Joseph V. resides in this county, while Peter lives in Will County, Ill. The honored father was called to his reward in 1864.

John Van Dalson Bronk, who was born in this township August 27, 1844, received the limited educational advantages of his day and remained at the old homestead as long as his father lived, relieving him of a great share of the care of the place during his last years. He continued to manage the farm until 1892, when he removed to Joliet, where he engaged in the livery business for three years. Finally he decided that the comparatively free and independent life of the farmer was much to be preferred, and, disposing of his business, returned to the scenes and occupations of his youth. He has been blessed with prosperity in his undertakings, and has added to his possessions until he now owns two hundred and forty acres, much of this being planted in corn and oats. While he was numbered among the citizens of Joliet he erected a handsome residence, which he still owns, leasing it to responsible tenants. In 1898 he built a commodious, modern house on his own farm, and every appointment of the place is convenient and up-to-date.

Thirty-one years ago the marriage of Mr. Bronk and Miss Kate I. Van Dyke, daughter of John Van Dyke, of this township, was solemnized. Two of their five children have entered the silent land. Those now living are: Lucina, wife of William Cryder; Clara G., wife of Sacia Spangler, both of Will County; and Eva, who lives with her parents.

Politically Mr. Bronk is a staunch Republican, and, while he never has desired public office, has served as road commissioner. He is a Mason of the Knight Templar degree, belonging to the Plainfield Lodge and to the Joliet Commandery. In company with the other members of his family he favors the doctrines of the Universalist Church.







*Henry J. Holm*

## HENRY J. HOLM.

HENRY J. HOLM, who is manager of the creamery at Goodings Grove, Homer Township, came to this county in 1881 and began the cultivation of the one hundred and forty acres comprising his present homestead. By good management and energy he brought the place under excellent cultivation. As necessity demanded, he erected farm buildings. In 1896 his barn burned down and he built the one he now uses, a substantial building with basement 32x60 feet in dimensions; also a corn crib 24x32. His barn is so large that it will accommodate eighty tons of hay at one time. The stock are given stalls in the basement. He engages in the raising of cattle and in the dairy business, milking eleven cows. Largely through his efforts a creamery was started. He was the first to subscribe for stock and furnish money for the enterprise, and he now has quite a sum invested in the business. Besides being manager of the creamery he is secretary and treasurer of the company. All products are shipped to Chicago, where Elgin prices are paid. It is due to his management and good judgment that the business has been made so profitable, returning to its stockholders dividends that are larger than was first anticipated. The quality of the butter is so excellent that it always commands a high price. For instance, in September, 1899, they turned out eight thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight pounds of butter, which sold at an average price of twenty-two and one-half cents per pound, this making the cash receipt from seven thousand seven hundred and twenty-nine pounds sold outside of the community \$1,749, an estimate that gives an idea of the dimensions of the business and explains the reason for the high rating of the stock.

Mr. Holm was born in Kensington, Ill., February 9, 1857. His father, John, a native of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Prussia, came to America at eighteen years of age, spending six weeks on the water. He proceeded at once to this county, where he was employed on farms. Later he sawed wood for the Illinois Central Railroad, making about \$1,600. With this money he bought land in Worth, Cook County. The place was raw prairie and required considerable effort to get under cultivation. Being industrious he prospered. The property that he first purchased is now worth many hundred times what he paid for it. By adding to his holdings he became the owner of three hundred and sixty-five acres, comprising a valuable farm, on which he still resides. He has served as commissioner and is a Republican in politics. In religion he believes in Lutheran doctrines. While living in Kensington he married Carolina Hock, also from Prussia. They have five children, viz.: Henry J.; Mrs. Mary Handorf, of Marley, this county; Dora, wife of Dan Laufer, of Homer Township; Fred, who superintends his father's farm; and Carrie, wife of Paul Hampel, of Washington Heights.

The life of our subject has been passed in Cook and Will Counties. He remained at home until his marriage, April 11, 1881, which united him with Louise, daughter of Henry Sahs, of Oak Lawn. She died in 1896, leaving five children, Henry, Louise, Alice, Cora and Carrie. Since 1891 Mr. Holm has been a member of the board of school directors. His political views are in accord with the platform of the Republican party. He is a director of the Homer Mutual Fire Insurance Company, an organization which has proved of great benefit to the farmers of this

township. Reared in the Lutheran faith, he has always favored its doctrines and supported its enterprises.

**A**LFRÉD T. CORBIN, a leading business man of Plainfield, is the proprietor of an establishment in which he carries a complete assortment of dry-goods, groceries, hats and caps, etc. In addition to this business he has other interests of varying degrees of importance and value. He owns a half interest in a hardware store in Phoenix, Ariz., of which his son-in-law is the manager. He also has shares in the Bankers' Mining & Milling Company, which owns a mine on Bull Mountain, at Cripple Creek, Colo., and also has mining interests at Leadville, that state.

The father of our subject, Elihu Corbin, was born in Rutland, Vt., and in boyhood accompanied his parents to Cleveland, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. For a time he carried on a boot and shoe business in Cleveland, after which, with a partner, he operated a tannery. The excitement caused by the discovery of gold in California reached him and he determined to seek in the far west a fortune. In 1850 he went to the Pacific coast overland and remained a year, when, his brother-in-law being taken sick, he started east with him via Panama, but the sick man died before home was reached. Resuming the shoe business, Mr. Corbin manufactured shoes of his own leather and built up a good trade in Cleveland. However, desiring to seek another location, he sold out in 1852 and came to Plainfield, Ill., November 5, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres, a portion of which is now in the city limits. He platted the land in town lots and sold it as opportunity afforded. On the remainder he engaged in general farm pursuits, and added to it from time to time. Finally retiring, he established his home in the town. On the Republican ticket he was elected justice of the peace, which office he held for more than a quarter of a century. During

the Civil war he held office as deputy United States marshal. In religion he was an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church. His life was devoted to various pursuits, and in each he seemed to meet with success. As a farmer he was thorough and painstaking, as a business man energetic and up-to-date. From 1860 to 1862 he carried on a mercantile business in Plainfield, but, preferring agricultural pursuits, he sold out. When he died in 1895 he was eighty-two years of age.

The mother of our subject was Elisa A. Fish, a native of Groton, Conn., and now a resident of Plainfield, Ill. In spite of her eighty-three years she is quite active. Of her nine children four are deceased. Hannah is the widow of Capt. D. Sullivan, who was a captain in the Eighth Illinois Cavalry during the Civil war; Emma M. is the widow of E. Holbrook, of Batavia, Ill.; and Mary E. resides with her mother. The youngest of the family is Louis D., who clerks for his brother. Another son, Edward W., was a merchant in Colorado and died there, but is buried in Plainfield. Mrs. Eliza A. (Fish) Corbin is a granddaughter of Ebenezer Fish, a soldier in the Revolutionary war and for six months a prisoner-of-war. His son, Ebenezer, served during the second war with England. He walked the entire distance from Connecticut to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1811, and settled in that place, where he became a prominent citizen, and one of the founders of Methodism, giving the site for two churches. He died in 1880, aged ninety-three years. His wife was Johanna Stanton, of Stonington, Conn.

In Cleveland, Ohio, our subject was born January 6, 1843. He was nine years of age when the family settled in this county. Two years later he secured work as a clerk in Plainfield. He continued steadily in business, with the exception of the time spent in a commercial college in Chicago. In 1870, with two partners, Mr. Corbin engaged in the mercantile business in Plainfield. His partners were G. N. and W. H. Chittenden; the former sold his interest to his partners in 1887. Three years later our subject bought his partner's interest and has since man-



aged the store. During the mining excitement in Montana he spent three years in that territory (1864-67), and besides mining took up a ranch. Fraternally he is a member of Plainfield Lodge No. 536, A. F. & A. M. In politics he is staunchly, though not actively, a Republican, and has held various township and city offices, to which he was elected on the party ticket. His marriage united him with Miss Laura A. Pratt, daughter of the late S. S. Pratt, who was a merchant in Plainfield. They are the parents of one daughter, Grace, who married Charles H. Davidson, a hardware merchant in Phoenix, Ariz. They have one son, Harold Corbin Davidson.

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**M**AJ. EDWIN S. MUNROE. The largest real-estate firm in Joliet is that of Munroe Brothers, composed of ex-Senator George H. and Maj. Edwin S. Munroe, who since 1896 have conducted a mortgage, loans, insurance, real-estate and general trust company's business, with offices in the Munroe hotel block. Since 1898 they have laid out the Munroe & Kelly subdivision, west of Henderson avenue, and the Munroe & Melchior and the Munroe & Norton additions, while prior to this the senior member of the firm platted many subdivisions while doing business under the firm name of G. Munroe & Son, including the Ridgewood additions to Joliet. It is doubtful if any individual or organization has accomplished more than they in the development of property interests and the advancing of real-estate values; hence their work possesses permanent merit.

In Florence Township, this county, the subject of this sketch was born September 29, 1857, a son of George, and a brother of George H. Munroe, to whose biographies the reader is referred for the family history. His education was obtained in public schools primarily and was completed in Northwestern University, which he attended from 1874 to 1876, having applied to this purpose his earnings while assisting his father

in the grocery business in Joliet. While attending the university he was very closely connected with the work of building the gymnasium and presenting it to the college; and as secretary and treasurer he was one of the leading members of the board of directors having the work in charge.

Upon leaving the university Mr. Munroe became salesman and bookkeeper for his father's grocery, and later traveled for the house. In January, 1881, he became traveling salesman for the wholesale grocery house of John Roper & Co. Four years later he severed his connection with them in order to accept a position as commercial traveler with Reid, Murdoch & Co., the largest wholesale grocery house in Chicago, and he continued with them for eleven years, until 1896. Meantime he had been extensively interested in Joliet real estate. Purchasing the corner of Chicago and Clinton streets, where the Joliet National Bank stands, he built the Ed S. Munroe block in 1882, and from that time to this his real-estate interests have constantly enlarged and broadened. He occupies the homestead on East Cass street, built in 1887 by his father. There, with his wife and three children, George M., Edwine M. and Stanley M., he has a pleasant home in which his leisure hours are passed. He married Marie, daughter of Gallus Muller, who came to Joliet just before the Chicago fire and was chief clerk for the Illinois penitentiary for over twenty years.

In 1876 Mr. Munroe entered the Illinois National Guard, becoming a private in Company B, Tenth Battalion. At the formation of the Twelfth Battalion, two years later, he was made quartermaster, with the rank of lieutenant, and continued in that capacity for eight years, the battalion meantime becoming the Fourth Regiment. In 1886 Governor Fifer commissioned him major of the regiment, and he continued as such until the reorganization of the guard and the merging of the Fourth into the Third Regiment. He was called into active service at the time of the Braidwood strike of 1877, the LaSalle trouble of 1878, the Joliet and Lemont strikes of 1885, and the Braidwood labor troubles of 1889.

He is a member of the Veteran Roll of the Illinois National Guard. Politically a Republican and interested in the success of his party, he is nevertheless in no sense of the word a politician, his time being fully occupied with the cares of his constantly increasing business. Socially he is a member of the Union Club of Joliet. In religion he is connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is secretary of the board of trustees, and is a delegate representing Rock River Conference in the General Conference to be held in Chicago in 1900, which is the supreme organization of the entire Methodist Episcopal Church throughout the world.

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**HENRY H. LICHTENWALTER.** Since his settlement in this county Mr. Lichtenwalter has been known not only as a substantial farmer, but also as a progressive citizen and an earnest Christian. Although he started for himself with very little means (having only \$68 at the time he came to Illinois), he has become one of the large land owners of Jackson Township, and his name is synonymous with successful agriculture. He is the owner of six farms, aggregating eleven hundred acres. This large property represents the results of honest industry and frugality, traits that have always been very noticeable in his character. Besides his farming and stock interests he acts as local agent for the Greengarden Mutual Insurance Company.

During the eighteenth century the Lichtenwalter family was founded in America by a German, who settled in Adams County, Pa., and remained there from that time until his death. The descendants of one of his sons may now be found in Lehigh County, Pa. Another of his sons, Abraham, was a native of Adams County, but spent his last years on a farm in Stark County, Ohio, and was buried at Canton, that state. His son, Solomon, was about twenty-one when the family removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio. He took up a tract of wild land, which he

cleared and improved, and there he spent his remaining years. He was one of the leading farmers of Stark County. For many years he was an elder in the Lutheran Church and the old house of worship he helped to build is still standing, in good repair. The honor of being a delegate to the Ohio conference was conferred upon him. At the time of his death he was eighty-eight years of age. His wife was Catherine Hane, a native of Pennsylvania, who at four years of age had been taken to Ohio by her father, Charles Hane; afterward she resided in Stark County until her death, at fifty-two years. Of her twelve children seven are now living, namely: Samuel, a farmer of Stark County; Sarah, wife of Martin Metz, of Elwood, Ill.; John, also of Elwood; William, whose home is in Manhattan; Henry H.; Christian, a farmer and stock-raiser in Thayer County, Neb.; and Amanda, who married William Young and lives in Stark County.

The education acquired by our subject was sufficient to enable him to teach school, and in this occupation he continued for two years. For five years he followed the carpenter's trade. August 31, 1856, he bade farewell to his relatives and started for the west, full of hope for the future, and with all the determination that youth and health and an earnest spirit can give. He arrived in Joliet on the 1st of September. After two months in the city he went to the country, where he followed his trade for two years. In 1858 he rented a farm six miles south of Joliet, and there he tilled the soil for eleven years. In 1869 he purchased a farm in Florence Township and at once commenced the improvement of the property, on which he made his home for the next twenty-three years, meantime following the general lines of farming and stock-raising. He owned four hundred acres in partnership with his brother-in-law, Hiram E. Guiss. With him he also, for sixteen years, operated a threshing machine, having contracts for work of this kind in Florence, Jackson, Manhattan and Wilton Townships. Their machine was one of the first threshers brought to the county. In 1886 he bought a farm in Jackson Township and five



years later he moved to it. He remained there until March, 1900, when he removed with his wife and daughter to Manhattan, his son remaining on the farm.

Politically a Republican, Mr. Lichtenwalter was on that ticket elected supervisor of Florence Township, road commissioner, justice of the peace, collector, school trustee, etc. In 1858 he married Leah, daughter of John Guiss. They have six children living, viz.: Orlando, Frank, Albert (of Florence Township), Frances (wife of R. F. Weibel), John and Addie. The family are active workers in Grace Evangelical Church. Mr. Lichtenwalter was converted at the age of sixteen years and has since lived an exemplary Christian life. Since 1890 he has been a member of the Illinois conference and in 1898 he was a delegate to the general conference of the United Evangelical Church at Johnstown, Pa. In 1894 he donated land for a church building and he also contributed largely to the erection of the same, since which time he has been a liberal contributor to its maintenance. He has filled the office of Sunday-school superintendent constantly and for some years has been a trustee of the church.

**REV. MOTHER ALEXANDER MUNCH**, who is at the head of the community of Franciscan Sisters, located at Joliet, has for years been a potent factor in the advancement of its work and growth. St. Francis' convent, which the Sisters have in charge, was founded in 1865, its first location being on the corner of North Broadway and Division street, Joliet, but in 1882 it was removed to the present location, in the most elevated part of the city, away from the din of the busy streets. The cornerstone of the large main building was laid in 1881, but the building was not completed until 1882. From the time of its establishment in 1865 this convent has been the mother-house of this community. About 1874 St. Francis' Academy was started, and it is now one of the best schools of its kind in the county. The

building is provided with dormitories, class rooms, music rooms, studio, a recreation hall, an extensive library and scientific apparatus and specimens for illustrating the various branches of science. The course of study comprises three departments, each consisting of four grades, and each grade requires one year's time. Special attention is given to the department of music, which aims at thoroughness and adapts the most improved methods to the cultivation of correct taste and an appreciation of classical music. Students are drilled in harmony, the technique and theory of music. Attention is also given to oil painting and water colors. The large studio affords the students excellent facilities for the study of drawing and painting; a special feature has been made of china painting, and a kiln for firing is in charge of one of the Sisters. As a stimulus to effort, gold medals are awarded each year to those attaining the highest standard of excellence. The work of the academy has been thoroughly systematized, so that the best results may be obtained from the pupils, and their progress in study is judiciously promoted.

Upon the establishment of the convent in 1865, Rev. Mother Alfreda Moes, a French lady, was placed at its head. She was followed successively by Rev. Mother Alberta Stockhof, Mother Mary Frances Shanahan, Mother Mary Celestine Sontag, Mother Lucy Raub (a native of Joliet), Mother Mary Angela Rosenberger and Mother Alexander Munch. Mothers Sontag, Raub and Rosenberger each held the position for six years. In August, 1899, Rev. Mother Alexander Munch was placed at the head of the convent. She was born in Joliet, a daughter of Xavier Munch, and received her education in Catholic schools, graduating in 1870, since which time she has been connected with the work of the Franciscan Sisters.

Under the supervision of the Franciscan Sisters of this community are thirty mission houses in various parts of this state, Ohio, Wisconsin, Missouri and Pennsylvania, where they have charge of the instruction of eight thousand children, including St. John's, St. Joseph's and Holy Cross parochial schools in Joliet. In 1898 they established the Guardian Angels' Home for Children



and erected a building on Buell avenue with accommodations for sixty. Already fifty-five orphans have been placed under their care in this institution. In the rearing of the children given to their charge they show a painstaking thoroughness and the most earnest desire to implant in their hearts pure and lofty purposes and to cultivate good morals.

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**W**ILLIAM M. CLOW owns an improved stock and dairy farm on section 14, Wheatland Township. Born on a farm, he selected agriculture as his life occupation; the success he has met proves he made no mistake. Under his father he acquired some knowledge of many details connected with cultivating the soil and raising stock. At the time of his marriage he started for himself, bought one hundred and fifteen acres of unimproved land, which he has since added to by the purchase of one hundred and twenty acres. He assisted in incorporating the creamery, which proved to be profitable. He has held the offices of township clerk, road commissioner and school director, and in politics is a Democrat.

The grandfather of our subject, Robert Clow, a native of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, brought his family to America in 1837. He and his family (six sons and two daughters) rented the old Shaker farm on Sodus Bay, N. Y., which they worked six years. In 1843 they came west via the Erie canal and the lakes to Chicago. Settling in Will County, he and his sons pre-empted and purchased some fourteen hundred and eighty acres. He resided on the place until his death in 1877, aged eighty-five years. His wife died in Scotland. They had six sons and four daughters.

At the time the family came to America, Robert Clow, Jr., father of our subject, was eighteen years old. He accompanied his father to this county in 1844 and was identified with its farm and public interests all his life. In 1849, at the age of thirty-one, he married Miss Rosanna

McMicken, who was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, and came to Illinois with her parents in 1843. Their home was the southeast quarter of section 15. He was a Republican in politics. He served one term in the Illinois legislature, two terms as circuit clerk of the county, and also as justice of the peace, township clerk and supervisor. He died September 15, 1888, and his wife in 1895, at the home of her son, John B. They had eight children, five of whom are living, namely: William M.; Ellen J., wife of Charles H. Farquhar, of Chicago; Adam S., who farms his grandfather's homestead; John B., who has succeeded to the ownership of his father's place; and Rose, wife of H. H. Hyland, of Lamar, Mo.

The eldest child of his parents, our subject was born December 18, 1850. His education was obtained in local schools and four terms at Aurora. In 1874 he married Eliza V. Cherry, of Kendall County, an estimable woman and consistent member of the Presbyterian Church. They have five children, namely: Ida G., deceased; Robert C., Annie L., Charles H. and Lena. The family stand high among the people of the township, and are respected in the best social circles, their intelligence and refinement bringing them many friends.

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**D**ANIEL C. MASON resided on his farm adjoining Joliet from the fall of 1869 until his death in 1896. During these years he engaged in farming and built up a homestead that won admiring notice from passers-by. His original tract comprised seventy-one acres in the home place, to which he added until he was the owner of two hundred and fifty acres, improved with all needful buildings, and bearing every evidence of the owner's judicious oversight. He was born January 12, 1811, the seventh among eleven children that attained mature years, whose parents, Arnold and Mercy (Coman) Mason, removed after marriage from Berkshire County, Mass., to New Hartford, near Utica, N. Y.

There he remained until twenty-one years of age. Upon leaving home he went to New Jersey and worked under his father, who had a contract for building a portion of the Delaware and Raritan canal. After a year there he joined the firm of Mason & Downing in a contract for excavating through Bergen Hill for the old Jersey Central Railroad, and also helped to dig the Morris canal from there to Jersey City. The next contract was for building two sections of the Croton water works, in New York City. Later he engaged in farming near his old home until 1869, when he came to Illinois.

April 16, 1844, Mr. Mason married Miss Cornelia H. Kellogg, the second in a family of two sons and two daughters, whose parents were Truman and Melinda (Marsh) Kellogg, natives of Oneida County, N. Y. Mrs. Mason was born June 8, 1824, and was reared on her father's farm. She became the mother of two children, Truman A. Mason, of Joliet, and Mrs. Sherwood, who occupies the family homestead. Throughout the entire period of his residence in this country Mr. Mason proved himself to be a progressive citizen, an enterprising farmer, warm friend and accommodating neighbor, and his death was mourned by the many to whom his sterling qualities had endeared him.

**T**RUMAN A. MASON. The value in any community of a citizen is not marked merely by the success that has attended his efforts in business, but also by his character in private life, his progressive spirit as a citizen, and the interest he maintains in measures affecting the public welfare. Judged by these standards, Mr. Mason may be classed among the most valued citizens of Joliet. While various enterprises have felt the impetus of his aid, he is most widely known as president of the Joliet National Bank, which he organized March 2, 1891, and of which he has since been the head. This institution has enjoyed a remarkable growth. Within eight

years after its organization its deposits had reached \$750,000, and it ranks among the first in the state in the extent of its transactions and in reliability. The co-laborers of the president have remained unchanged from the first, and are as follows: R. T. Kelly, cashier; H. O. Williams, teller; and Charles G. Pierce, bookkeeper; nor has the board of directors been altered in any appreciable degree.

Tracing the history of the Mason family, we find that the grandfather of our subject, Arnold Mason, was born in Cheshire, Mass., September 10, 1777, and died March 9, 1862. His marriage, December 29, 1796, united him with Mercy Coman, who was born October 20, 1776, and died November 9, 1850. Her father, Daniel Coman, a native of Swansea, R. I., was a captain in the Revolutionary war, and married Hannah Angell, whose birth occurred in Barrington, R. I., December 14, 1750. This entire Rhode Island colony came from Suffolk, England, and settled in Swansea and Rehoboth. Hannah Angell was a daughter of Nedabiah Angell, who was born April 29, 1712, and died April 19, 1786; her mother, Mary Winsor, was born September 2, 1718, and died June 9, 1758. Nedabiah's father, Daniel Angell, was born May 2, 1680, and died June 16, 1750; he married Hannah Winsor. He was a son of John Angell, born in Rhode Island in 1643, and died July 27, 1720; he married Ruth Field, a daughter of William Field.

The first member of the Angell family in America was John's father, Thomas Angell, who was born in Suffolk County, England, in 1618, and died in September, 1694. He came to America with Roger Williams in the ship "Lion," Capt. A. Pearee, in 1631. His wife, Alice, died in Rhode Island in January, 1695. Mary Winsor, wife of Nedabiah Angell, was also his cousin, he being a son of Hannah, daughter of Samuel and Merey (Williams) Winsor, the latter a daughter of the illustrious Roger Williams by his marriage to Mary Wanton.

After his marriage Arnold Mason removed to New Hartford, N. Y., where he was a large farmer and also for many years proprietor of Mason's inn, the old "half-way" house on the



Albany turnpike. He was one of the contractors for the Harlem high bridge in New York City and for a majority of the high rocky cuts out of Jersey City and Bergen, N. J.; also had contracts on the Erie canal, being one of the largest contractors of his day. During the war of 1812 he served as a captain and took part in the battle of Sackett's Harbor. When he settled in New Hartford he had only \$100, but by his own energy and the aid of his wife he became very successful. In religion he was an ardent Baptist.

Levi, father of Arnold Mason, was born in Swansea, R. I., October 15, 1752, and was accidentally killed August 20, 1844. His wife, Amy Gilson, who was born June 30, 1751, died six days after her husband, her death being the result of grief over his loss. He and six of his brothers were in the thickest of the fight at Bennington during the Revolutionary war. For some years he lived in Cheshire, Mass., but his last days were spent with his son, Arnold, in New Hartford, N. Y. His father, Nathan, was born May 10, 1705, and died in 1758; August 26, 1731, he married Lillis Hale, daughter of John and Hannah (Tillinghast) Hale. It was Nathan Mason who established the family in Cheshire, Mass., removing there from Swansea. He was a son of Isaac Mason, born July 15, 1667, and died January 25, 1742, who was a deacon in the Second Baptist Church in Swansea from its organization in 1693 until his death. Isaac was a son of Sampson Mason, who emigrated from Suffolk, England, and settled in Dorsetshire, Mass., in 1649, thence in 1657 removed to Rehoboth, R. I. From all the best authorities the statement is made that he was a dragoon in Cromwell's army. He married Mary Butterworth, a sister of Deacon John Butterworth, at whose home in Swansea the Baptist congregation of the town was organized in 1663.

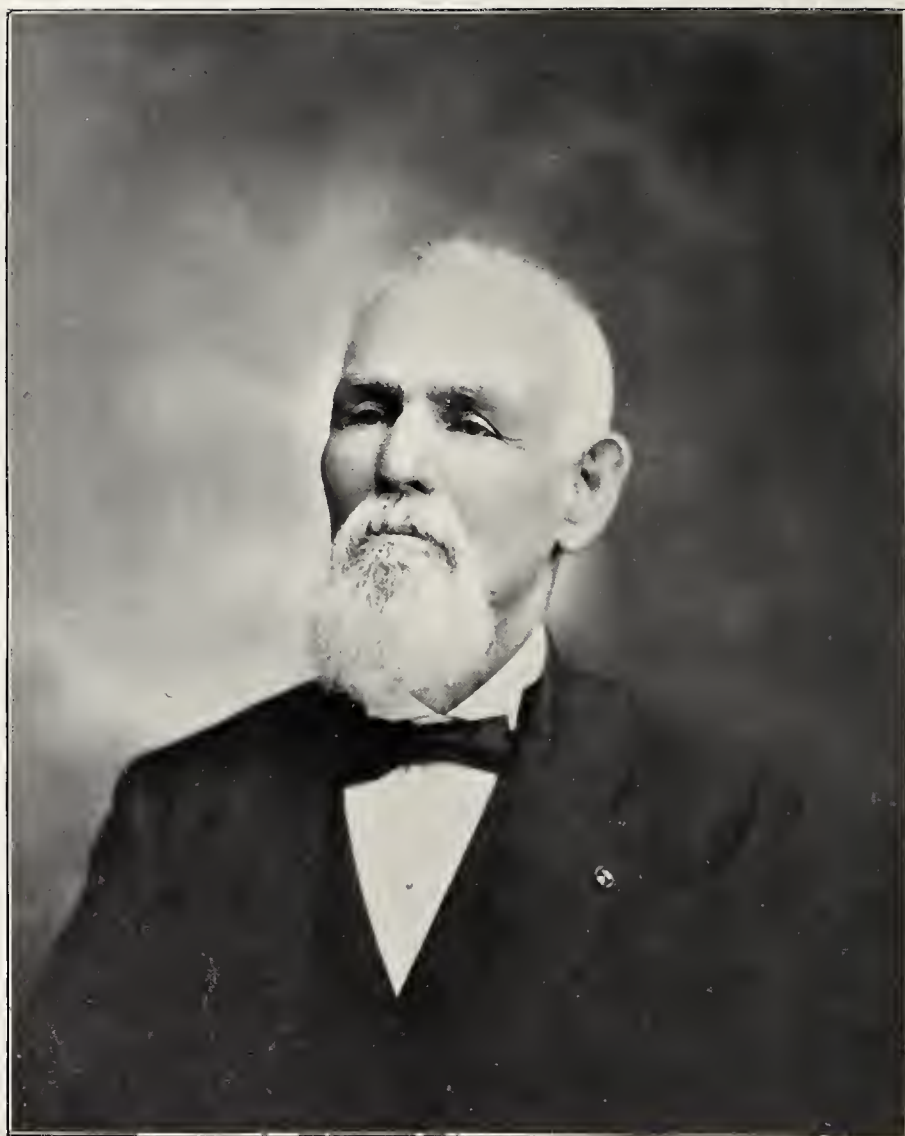
The record of the son of Arnold and father of Truman A. Mason appears on another page of this volume. Daniel C. Mason had two children: Mrs. Cornelia Sherwood and Truman A. Mason. The latter was born in New Hartford, N. Y., March 14, 1846, and was reared in Utica, attending public schools and Whitestown Academy.

At nineteen years of age he rented his father's farm and for a year carried on a stock business. In the spring of 1866 he came to Illinois, thence went to Missouri, and returning to Chicago, became assistant pilot on the Chicago & Alton Railroad. After eight months he accepted a position with a wholesale house in Utica, where he remained for six months as an employe. He then became a member of the firm of Rawley Bros. & Co., which continued in business for some years. In the fall of 1869 he sold out and settled in Joliet, where, in the spring of 1870, he engaged in the lumber business with H. W. and F. B. Plant, as Mason & Plant, this firm continuing to operate a planing mill and lumber yard until 1880, when the partnership was dissolved. In 1880 he opened a wholesale and retail lumber yard on the Michigan Central Railroad, shipping lumber from the Michigan pine woods in large quantities; he was the first lumberman in Joliet who shipped exclusively by rail, which he found to be more rapid and satisfactory than by canal. His health becoming impaired by the pressure of business, he deemed it advisable to sell out, which he did in 1887, and afterward recuperated until his strength was regained.

As a Republican Mr. Mason is interested in politics. He served for one term each as alderman from the third ward and assistant supervisor. He is a member of the township board of education and one of the city school inspectors, being chairman of the committee on buildings, which work takes much of his time. He is vice-president of the State Bankers' Association and one of its leading members. Socially he is connected with the Union Club. In Masonry he is a member of Matteson Lodge No. 175, A. F. & A. M.; Joliet Chapter No. 27, R. A. M.; and Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T. His marriage, which took place in Joliet, united him with Anna E., daughter of W. P. Caton, who settled in Chicago during the '30s. They are the parents of three children: Cornelia Louise, who graduated from Houghton Seminary in Clinton, N. Y., and is now the wife of John H. Garnsey, of Joliet; William C., of Mankato, Minn., who is a civil engineer with the Northwestern Railroad; and Elizabeth C.







*E. W. Alliston*

## CAPT. EDWARD McALLISTER.

CAPT. EDWARD McALLISTER. As the name indicates, the McAllister family is of Scotch origin. The first to seek a home in America were three brothers, one of whom settled in New York, another in Philadelphia, and the third in Pelham, Mass. The latter, Hon. Hamilton McAllister, moved to Salem, N. Y., in 1760, when all of Washington County was a wilderness and the surrounding country was sparsely settled. The nearest mill was at Albany, forty-five miles distant, and thither his wife, Sarah, rode on horseback with a sack of wheat, returning home with the flour. He was the first representative ever elected from Washington County to the state legislature. In those days the members were obliged to pay their own expenses, and it was his custom to take with him to Albany enough butter to pay his board. He was one of the first sheriffs of Washington County. In political views he was a Whig.

The youngest son of Hamilton McAllister was William, who was born in Salem in a house that had been built on the home place in 1785. While engaged in lumbering he accidentally split his foot with an axe, inflicting an injury so serious that he was unable to serve in the war of 1812. However, two of his brothers represented the family in the army. He assisted in clearing the home place, which was covered with pine; the stumps of these he pulled and with them built a fence that remains to this day. Buying the interest of the other heirs in the homestead, he spent his remaining years thereon, meantime taking great pains to place the land under cultivation. In politics he voted with the Democrats. He was a strict supporter of Scotch Presby-

terian doctrines and for many years served as trustee of his church. When General Burgoyne passed through on his way to Bennington he used the church building as a barracks and afterward burned it; on two other occasions the church was burned to the ground, but each time the McAllisters assisted liberally in rebuilding.

One of the brothers of William McAllister was John, who in young manhood started for the west. Going down the Ohio River in a flatboat, he proceeded up the Mississippi and the Illinois and in 1819 settled in Jersey County.

The marriage of William McAllister united him with Hannah Shoudler, whose father, Andrew, was a descendant of an old Holland family of New York, while her mother was of English lineage. Five children were born to their marriage who attained mature years, namely: Archibald, deceased, who was for years a successful farmer of this county, but whose last days were spent in Chicago; William K., who was a judge on the supreme bench of Illinois from 1870 to 1873, later was judge of the circuit court of Cook County, and at the time of his death held office as judge of the appellate court; Mrs. Catherine Walker, who resides in Salem, N. Y.; Edward; and Jesse, who engaged in the wool and commission business in Chicago, but was killed in a collision on the Panhandle Railroad.

In the house built by his grandfather in 1785, the subject of this article was born December 24, 1828. His education was largely acquired in Washington Academy at Salem, an institution his grandfather had helped to build and support. His favorite recreation in boyhood was hunting, and he became an expert shot. When twenty-



four years of age he came to Illinois and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Plainfield Township, Will County, where he now resides. It was raw prairie land, without any buildings or fences. Borrowing the money to make the first payment, he began to improve the place. He has put in eleven miles of tiling, so that every foot of ground is tillable. At one time he was heavily engaged in raising hogs, but owing to the cholera scourge he dropped the business. One of his specialties has been dairying. For about ten years twenty-five hundred pounds of butter were made on his place each year, for which he was paid twenty-five cents a pound. Prior to 1899 he not only managed the place, but did much of the active work himself, but recently, owing to heart trouble, he has confined his attention to superintending the work of others. Since the organization of the party he has been a Republican, and for years has been the head of the party delegation in his township, but has held no office except that of supervisor in 1885.

June 4, 1860, Captain McAllister married Fannie Beebe, by whom he had two sons and three daughters. The oldest son died when six years of age. Carrie is the wife of Edward R. McClelland, of Plainfield Township; Ada married Dr. Evans, of Spring Valley; Jessie was a teacher in this county and is the wife of Fred Foss, youngest son of L. T. Foss, an old settler of Plainfield Township; and Clyde assists his father in the management of the farm.

At the opening of the Civil war Captain McAllister was among the first to offer his services to the Union. In 1856 he had assisted in organizing the militia here which was known as the Plainfield Artillery, and he was the first man in this part of the country to enlist in the Civil war. April 19, 1861, his name was enrolled for service. He was elected captain of artillery and commanded the best battery of artillery in the Army of the Tennessee. His company enlisted for three months. At the end of that time he organized a company for three years' service. He proceeded first to Cairo. In September he was sent to Fort Holt, Ky., which at that time was the lowest Union fort on the river. In February,

1862, he joined the Army of the Tennessee. His was the first battery to enter Fort Henry, and Captain McAllister was put in command of the fort. From there he was ordered to Fort Donelson, where his was the first shot fired by the Army of the Tennessee Saturday morning, February 15, 1862. Finding that the enemy were preparing to break through the lines he opened on them with one of his guns without orders, thus waking all the troops around him, and this, the first gun fired in the battle, was the notification to the entire army of the opening of that memorable engagement. His own guns being disabled, he was ordered to select what he wanted from the forty-eight captured from the enemy. As his ammunition did not fit them he objected to their use, and finally secured an order to go to General Sherman at Paducah and get a new outfit of brass guns. At the battle of Shiloh he had this new and superior outfit. Having erected his battery at the edge of a clearing across which he fought and silenced Stanford's Mississippi battery, he afterward noticed a column of infantry, the Fourth Tennessee, in columns of fours, approaching along a road. He sent three cannon to the rear and placed the fourth in the road, then opened on the enemy with canister, killing thirty-one and wounding one hundred and sixty men according to the Confederate reports of the war. The execution of this one gun, served by nine good men, was probably the most severe on record in the War of the Rebellion. Captain McAllister helped to train the gun and only beat a hasty retreat when the enemy was within thirty paces. The nine brave men escaped by the enemy firing at the support of the battery, consisting of the Fourteenth Illinois, Twenty-fifth Indiana and Thirteenth Iowa Infantries, which lost one hundred men by the one volley fired by the enemy. Captain McAllister was for years ignorant of the real facts of the fight, until revealed to him by old comrades and Confederate soldiers. His gallant service in that engagement was the means of defeating a crack battery that had never before met with defeat. On the last day of the battle, Byrne's battery and two guns of the Washington artillery of New Orleans (the

crack battery of the Confederacy), were ordered to dislodge a battery on an eminence that had stopped the advance of the entire army. Captain McAllister and James A. Borland, of Joliet, were riding at the front, preparing to fire at the battery, when a shot killed their horses and General Sherman's horse, which was tied to a sapling. They secured good locations behind a rise in the ground, and carefully biding their time, were able soon to silence and dislodge the battery. Soon after the battle, owing to sickness, the captain resigned his commission and returned home.

In 1894, during a meeting of an association formed to make a national park out of the Shiloh battle ground, Captain McAllister met on a boat one of the members of the Fourth Tennessee Infantry, Thomas M. Page, of St. Louis, who told him that his one gun killed and wounded one hundred and ninety-one men in seven minutes, and he gave the captain great credit for the defense he had made. He stated that he was willing to erect a \$2,000 monument on the battle ground. Later the government planned to build one at a cost of \$750. The government has also appropriated \$225,000 for the purpose of making a national park of the battlefield, and Captain McAllister was asked to select four pieces to mark such spots as he desired. He has made four trips to Shiloh to attend meetings of Federals and Confederates. He is a member of the Loyal Legion, and Bartleson Post, G. A. R., of Joliet, also the Society of the Army of the Tennessee. Fraternally he is connected with Plainfield Lodge No. 536, A. F. & A. M.

Jackson when the latter was elected to the presidency, and always adhered to the Democratic party. In religion he was a Methodist. He married Sarah Preston and became the father of a large family.

When only fifteen years of age our subject began the study of medicine. In the spring of 1865 he graduated from the Eclectic Medical Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio, and came at once to Plainfield, where he opened an office. Having practiced previously in Vermont, he had considerable helpful experience, and from the first he met with success, building up a valuable practice. Both in his practice and from a financial standpoint he has been prospered. Of those who represented the fraternity at the time of his arrival in Plainfield he alone survives. Notwithstanding his long professional career, he still retains his keenness of judgment, quick insight into the causes of diseases and skill in their treatment. About a quarter of a century ago he was made a Mason, and since then he has been active in the fraternity, being now a member of Plainfield Lodge No. 536, A. F. & A. M.

In 1860 Dr. Perkins married Eliza, daughter of Rufus W. Bangs, of North Bennington, Vt. The only daughter born of their union was Julia E., who died in childhood. Their son, Harry A. Perkins, is engaged in business in Plainfield.

Dr. Perkins has been an important factor in the upbuilding of Plainfield. To his energy and public spirit the attractive appearance of the town is in no small measure due. For many years he has been a member of the school board, and during that time he spent a year in securing the erection of a substantial building which was built, jointly, by two districts. At first the heavy tax necessitated by the work caused dissatisfaction and criticism, but the good results being apparent to all, he is given the credit due him for the praiseworthy enterprise. The two large brick store and office buildings on the north side of Lockport street were erected by him. For his own convenience in 1897 he built a gas plant, and this was so appreciated that he afterward enlarged it in order to furnish light to the entire block. The Republican party receives his sup-

**A** J. PERKINS, M. D., the oldest resident physician of Plainfield, is a native of New York, born in Mount Upton, Chenango County, March 20, 1834. His father, Luke, who was also of New York birth, followed the miller's trade during the greater part of his life. When advanced in years he retired from business and came west, his last days being spent in the home of his son in Plainfield. He voted for General



port and its candidates his vote. For many years he served as a member of the town board, being president of the same during a large part of the time. In this capacity he maintained a deep interest in the improvement of the town and the widening of its interests. His term on the board expired in 1895, when, deeming his long period of public service entitled him to a rest from such duties, he refused a continuance in office, retiring with an honorable record for diligent discharge of duties and for the zeal displayed in behalf of local interests.

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**H**ENRY STELLWAGEN. In spite of the lapse of years since his death, Mr. Stellwagen is well remembered by the people of Frankfort Township, among whom he had always made his home. He was a young man possessing many worthy traits of character, and his sudden death, at the very outset of his career, was deplored by all of his acquaintances. Reared on a farm and familiar with agriculture from his earliest recollections, he had drifted easily into the occupation of a farmer, for which he seemed to have a natural aptitude. Thorough-going and progressive, had his life been spared he would undoubtedly have attained a place among the wealthiest farmers of the township, and probably, too, would have been prominent in local affairs. As it was, he left his family in comfortable circumstances, his property including a farm in Frankfort Township and another in Greengarden Township.

On a farm owned by his father, Philip, who was a pioneer of this county, Henry Stellwagen was born November 15, 1850. His boyhood

years were passed in the schoolroom and on the farm. Possessing an industrious disposition, he early took a place among the rising young farmers of the township. As a tiller of the soil he was energetic and thrifty. In the rotation of crops he showed excellent judgment. It was his aim to secure from each acre of ground the largest possible results. He had good ideas in regard to farming. Agricultural machinery was introduced whenever possible or expedient. While the management of his farm kept him very busy, he nevertheless found leisure for other interests. He was very fond of music, and for some time was a member of a band. In politics he was not especially interested, although he discharged his duty as a citizen and cast his ballot for Democratic men and measures calculated to advance the public good.

In 1871 Mr. Stellwagen married Miss Mary Bechstein. Five children were born of their union. The oldest daughter, Christina, is the wife of Reinhold Eichenberg, a commission merchant in Chicago. Annie, at home, is a teacher; Philip died at the age of two years and six months; Mary is assistant postmistress, and Henry, who attended the Athenæum College, clerks in a wholesale jewelry store in Chicago. August 15, 1882, Mr. Stellwagen was struck by lightning and instantly killed. He was then thirty-two years of age, a strong and active young man, with every prospect of a successful future. Since his death his widow has superintended the management of the farm property and the education of her children. She possesses decided business talent, and has superintended her affairs in an intelligent manner; at the same time she has held a high position in social circles and has won many warm friends among the people of the village.







*Daniel Hayden*

## DANIEL HAYDEN.

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**D**ANIEL HAYDEN, a large farmer and extensive cattle dealer of Florence Township, was born in Kennebec County, Me., August 13, 1839, a son of John and Hannah (Kinsella) Hayden. He was one of seven children, five of whom are living, namely: Mary, who is married, and resides on a farm in Maine; Daniel, of this sketch; Thomas and John, farmers of Florence Township; and Hannah, also of this county. The paternal grandfather, Daniel Hayden, a native of Ireland, was one of the active participants in the rebellion of 1798. When advanced in years, in 1845, he came to America, and a few months later died at the home of his son John. His wife bore the maiden name of Catherine Donahue, and died in Ireland in early womanhood.

John Hayden was born in Ireland in 1815, and when twenty years of age sought a home in the new world. He purchased land in Lincoln County, Me., and for some years cultivated that place. In 1851 he came west to Illinois and settled in Joliet, where he bought teams, hired men, and engaged in teaming to the quarries and railroads. After five years in that business he resumed farming, buying fifty-three acres on section 12, Florence Township. He was prosperous to such an extent that he became the owner of one thousand and two hundred acres, and was rated among the wealthy men of the township. Politically he was a Democrat, and in religion a Roman Catholic. His death occurred on his farm, April 5, 1889. His wife, who was born in Ireland and died in this county, February 28, 1890, was

a daughter of Patrick and Bridget (Burns) Kinsella. Her father died in Ireland, after which her mother, with a sister, came to America about 1850, and afterward made her home with a son until she died. The Kinsella family at one time was very wealthy, and owned valuable landed interests, but, on account of not affiliating with the Established Church, in the seventeenth century their property was confiscated.

When the family came to Illinois our subject was twelve years of age. He grew to manhood in this county, and attended the country and city schools. January 26, 1862, he went to Wheeling, W. Va., where he secured employment on a government commissary boat. In this work he continued until the 4th of July, 1864. His first trip was the conveying of a load of bran from St. Louis to Wheeling, and on the return trip the boat was pressed into the government service. On his return to this county he resumed work on the home farm. At the death of his father the homestead of four hundred acres and two hundred and forty acres one mile east fell to his mother, sister and himself, and when the mother died her portion fell to him and his sister. He is one of the leading cattle-feeders in the township, and has been especially successful in this line of work. In religion he is connected with the Roman Catholic Church at Twelve-Mile Grove. Politically he votes with the Democrats. He has never married, but with his sister continues to live at the old homestead to which he came in his youth, and in the improvement of which he has been interested ever since.



**MYRON P. HOLMES.** During the long period of his residence in Spencer, extending from the spring of 1866 to the present time, Mr. Holmes has been proprietor of a general store in this village and has gained a wide circle of acquaintances among the people in the northern part of this county. He has erected a store building and residence and in other ways has added to the development of the village. Various local offices have been filled by him, among them those of road commissioner (three years), collector (four years) and assessor (one year). For years he has been a member of the school board, serving much of the time as its treasurer. He has been active in the Republican party ever since he cast his first vote for John C. Fremont, and keeps posted concerning the problems that are of national importance.

In an early day three brothers by the name of Holmes came from England to Connecticut and from there removed to New York state many years before the Revolutionary war. In the latter conflict Orsamus Holmes, our subject's grandfather, bore an active part as a member of the army of the frontier, serving with Ethan Allen at Ticonderoga and being twice taken prisoner. After the war he settled upon a farm in Chautauqua County. He was proprietor of a hotel on the stage line from Buffalo to Dunkirk, which was also a changing post for the stages and mails. His son, Asher, was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., and in 1835 came to what is now Will (then Cook) County, Ill., where he took up a claim on the southeast quarter of section 22, New Lenox Township, and secured the land at the first land sale in Chicago, in 1836. In the spring of 1837 he bought one hundred and sixty acres, upon which he began general farm pursuits. On this place he died in 1853, at the age of fifty-six. A man of mental activity, he took an interest in early political affairs as a Jeffersonian Democrat and served as judge of elections. At the time he settled in this county Joliet contained only nine houses. He lived to see the transformation wrought in the ensuing years, but died before the city reached a high state of prosperity. Chicago being the only market for grain, he was ac-

customed to make frequent trips to that city. During the war of 1812 he took part in the service as a member of a regiment from Dunkirk that took seventeen prisoners; at the time he was only seventeen years of age.

The lady whom Asher Holmes married was Eliza Ann Elmore, who was born in New York and died at the old homestead in Will County when seventy-five years of age. Of their union six children were born, namely: James, deceased; Myron P.; Eliza A., deceased; Orsamus, of New Lenox; Lydia, wife of Henry Glacier; and Julius, of Chicago. The subject of this sketch was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., June 8, 1830. He was about four years of age when his parents came to Illinois, and he grew to manhood in the county where he has since resided. His education was received principally in Albion (Mich.) College. In 1850 he joined a party of Argonauts en route to California, and, reaching the Pacific coast, spent five years engaged in mining, with fair success. On his return to Illinois he spent two years with his mother, then again went to California, where he operated mines and carried on a lumber business. In 1864 he returned to this county and two years later opened the store of which he has since been the proprietor. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Mokena, in which he has been a trustee for years. By his marriage, in 1864, to Lydia Fager, who was born in Ohio and came to Illinois at an early age, he has four children, namely: Ada, wife of E. E. Swing; Mary, who married L. F. Wilson; Myron H., who is in Michigan; and Edith, at home.

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**NORMAN S. HAMLIN.** Although beginning his life in this county with very little money, Mr. Hamlin has long been known as one of the substantial and prosperous farmers and citizens of his locality. His life has been characterized by industry and frugality, and individualized by sagacious management and strict integrity. Farming has been his life work and

in it he has met with signal success; however, years ago he retired from active cares incident to the tilling of the soil and gathering in of the crops, but he still superintends his various interests, being of too energetic a nature to content himself in idleness.

In Fenner Township, Madison County, N. Y., Mr. Hamlin was born May 27, 1824. His father, Solomon, a native of Dutchess County, N. Y., removed to Madison County, the same state, with his parents, where he grew to manhood and where he died at the age of forty-four. He was a member of the Baptist Church and a stanch Abolitionist in principle. His father, Louis Hamblin (for in that way the name was spelled originally), was born in Connecticut and settled on a farm in New York in early manhood; he was eighty-seven at the time of his death. The family is of English extraction and was represented in New England at an early period.

The mother of our subject was Lucinda (Standard) Hamlin, a native of Bennington, Vt., but a resident of Madison County, N. Y., from childhood until some years after her marriage. Her last days were spent in this county in the home of her son, Norman S., where her death occurred at eighty years of age. As her husband, she held membership in the Baptist Church. Of her four sons and one daughter only two sons are living, Norman S., and Reuben S., of Canada. The subject of this sketch was educated in country schools. After the death of his father, which occurred when he was a youth of sixteen, he was taken into the home of an uncle, with whom he remained for five years. Later he secured work by the month. In the spring of 1851 he came to this county and bought one hundred and eighty-four acres of raw prairie land in Lockport Township, for which he paid \$5.50 per acre. Putting up a small house he established his home there. By diligent effort he made the necessary improvements and placed the soil under cultivation.

In those early days the country was destitute of improvements. While for a number of years settlers had been coming to the county, they had settled here in numbers too small to effect any radical transformation in the appearance of the

prairie, on which one might still ride long distances without fences to impede his progress. The land was not yet under first-class cultivation, towns were small, and the work of progress seemed scarcely begun. Mr. Hamlin bore his share in the development and upbuilding of the county, and as a result of his labors he became known as one of the best farmers in the county. For twenty years it was his custom to buy raw land, improve it and then sell at an advance, and at the same time he bought and sold stock. In the spring of 1870 he sold his farm land and bought a home in Plainfield, where he has since resided.

The marriage of Mr. Hamlin, in 1849, united him with Miss Parnel Keeler, who was born in Madison County, N. Y., December 21, 1822, and died in this county January 30, 1897. The only child born of their marriage is also deceased.

In the matter of good roads Mr. Hamlin has always been interested. Years ago, when the question was agitated, he advocated the buying of gravel pits and the putting of gravel on the roads, a plan that proved successful. For twenty years he served as road commissioner and his work while filling the office was of permanent value, its benefits being reaped at the present time. In politics he is independent, voting for the best men of either party. He is connected with Plainfield Lodge No. 536, A. F. & A. M.

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THOMAS BURKE. The duration of Mr. Burke's residence in Joliet covered a period from his earliest recollection to the time of his death. He was a man whose friends were many and whose influence was great, not alone among people of his own religious and political views, but among all citizens who held in respect a man of undoubted integrity and honor. Twice he was elected alderman from the fifth ward and he was recognized, during the period of his service, as one of the prominent and progressive



members of the board. While in national politics he voted with the Democrats, he was inclined to be independent in local matters, voting for the man rather than the party.

The father of our subject, Richard Burke, came from County Tyrone, Ireland, to America and settled in Lowell, Mass., from which city he moved to Joliet, Ill., in 1839, becoming a foreman in Governor Matteson's woolen factory. He was one of the founders of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and when he died, October 9, 1858, the last rites over his body were said in that church, and his body was laid to rest in the cemetery adjoining. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Bridget Ryan, died in Joliet in 1854. Their son, Thomas, was born in Lowell, Mass., May 11, 1838, and grew to manhood at the family homestead, No. 150 Comstock street, Joliet, where his widow now lives. He graduated from the old Broadway school and afterward became interested in the transfer business, which he carried on for many years. He then bought a livery business at No. 111 South Bluff street, where he built a stone barn, 54x100 feet, that is still the finest building of the kind in the city. From that time he was actively interested in the management of his business, which grew steadily and brought him large returns. While still in the full possession of his faculties, he died, September 12, 1898. His funeral, held at St. Patrick's, was one of the largest ever held in Joliet,

and his body was laid to rest in the parochial cemetery.

The church from which his body was carried to its final resting place was also the scene of his marriage more than forty years before. July 11, 1856, he was united with Miss Mary Hennessey, who was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, a daughter of John and Bridget (Collier) Hennessey, natives of the same county. Her father, who was a well-to-do farmer, came to America to join his children and died at Camp Grove, Peoria County, Ill., at seventy years of age; his wife, who was a daughter of Edward Collier, also died in Peoria County. They were the parents of ten children, all of whom came to America and six are living. Mrs. Burke was a small child when in 1852 she crossed the ocean in a sailing vessel that consumed forty-two days in the voyage to New York, from which city she went to Albany, and thence came west. In religious faith she is a Roman Catholic, belonging to St. Patrick's Church. Of her marriage eleven children were born, namely: Mrs. Agnes Jacobs, of Joliet, John, who is foreman for the Wylie Coal Company; Mrs. Nellie Sullivan; Bernard E., whose sketch is presented in this work; Mrs. Katherine Wallace; Thomas; William, who is employed by A. Dinet; Annie, who is clerk in a dry-goods store in this city; Sadie, principal of the Pleasant street school; Hattie, at home; and Alice, who is with her brother, B. E., in the grocery.







*Jas W Ferriss*

## JAMES H. FERRISS.

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JAMES H. FERRISS, Joliet, president of the News Company, was born in Oswego Township, Kendall County, Ill., November 18, 1849, a son of William H. and Eliza (Brown) Ferriss, natives respectively of Clinton County, N. Y., and Erie County, Pa. His ancestors on the father's side were Welsh Quakers. Zebulon Ferriss, the head of the family, settled in Providence, R. I., in 1630. The boyhood of James H. Ferriss was passed in the village of Bristol Station, Kendall County, where he early became familiar with the business of a cattle drover. From 1869 to 1872 he lived upon a farm in Kansas. With one of his present partners, Frank H. Hall, he leased the Yorkville (Ill.) *News* during the campaign of 1876 and through the columns of the paper supported Peter Cooper for the presidency. Two years before this he had gained a knowledge of reportorial work through his connection with the Joliet *Daily Sun*, Hayward & Radcliff, proprietors.

In January, 1877, Mr. Ferriss, Mr. Hall and others established the *Phoenix*, an independent weekly paper, at Joliet and other business centers of Will County. In October of the same year, with R. W. Nelson, now of New York, and H. E. Baldwin, one of his present partners, Mr. Ferriss purchased the *Morning News*, the name of which was afterward changed to the Joliet *Daily News*. From that time to the present he has continued with the paper, excepting two years (1881-82), when he edited the *Morning News*, in Portland, Me. He was married at Falls Village, Conn., June 30, 1880, to Miss Olive E. Hunt, a former resident of Bristol Station.

HORACE E. BALDWIN, Joliet, secretary and treasurer of the News Company, was born in Lacon, Marshall County, Ill., September 25, 1853. His parents, John G. and Adeline S. Baldwin, moved to La Salle County in 1854 and remained there until 1870. He was educated in the public schools of Ottawa, but moved from that city two years before his high school course was completed. Five years were spent in Kansas. During the first half of that time he engaged in farming in Woodson County, and during the last half he made his home in LaCygne, Linn County, where he learned the printer's trade under the firm of Kenea & Gore, proprietors of the *Journal*.

In 1875 the grasshopper siege caused Mr. Baldwin to return to Illinois. He finished his apprenticeship in a job office in the old *Times* building in Chicago, and in the following year went to Kansas City, where he attended the high school. February 4, 1877, Frank H. Hall, present business manager of the *News* and one of the partners in the News Company, induced him to come to Joliet to work in the *Phoenix* office. In July of the same year he was given a position on the *Morning News*, and September 30 became associated with R. W. Nelson, now of New York, and James H. Ferriss, one of his present partners, in publishing that paper, which in 1880 was changed to an evening publication. He has been connected with the paper from the day it started, April 9, 1877, to the present time, excepting about nine months spent in a grain office, in 1884.

Mr. Baldwin was married January 12, 1884, to Miss Lillian M. Truby, of Bird's Bridge, Ill.,



a daughter of the late Marshall Truby. Five children were born of their union: Adda M., Marshall T., H. Robert, Henry D. and Phil.

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**F**RANK H. HALL, business manager of the *News* and member of the News Company of Joliet, was born in Dupage County, Ill., November 14, 1857. His parents were among the pioneers, having settled in Dupage and Kendall Counties, Ill., early in the '30s. He obtained his education primarily in the "little red schoolhouse," after which he studied in Jennings' Seminary at Aurora. Leaving school when fifteen years of age he began to learn the printer's trade. Four years later, with one of his present partners, J. H. Ferriss, he published the *Yorkville News* in Yorkville, Ill. In 1877 he came to Joliet. Until 1882 he engaged in newspaper work here, after which for ten years he was manager for the American Press Association in Cincinnati and Chicago, and also held responsible positions with the Chicago Newspaper Union, American Type Founders' Company and Thorne Type Setting Machine Company. Few men have a larger personal acquaintance with the newspaper business throughout the United States than he, as he has traveled extensively through most of the states. In 1897 he returned to Joliet, where he has an attractive and comfortable residence on Sherman street. While he belongs to a few fraternal organizations and press associations, he has never been especially interested in lodge work nor is he much of a club man. He was married in 1880 to Belle G. Moulton, of Joliet, and they have a son, Harry H., nineteen years old, and a daughter, Elsie Katherine, twelve years of age.

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**W**ILLIAM J. BRUCE, proprietor of the James Bruce quarries at Joliet and a member of the Bruce Stone Company at Romeo, is a native of this county, born at Lockport, December 6, 1857. His father, James, who was

born at Aberdeen, Scotland, October 11, 1823, came to America shortly before attaining his majority, crossing the ocean in the sailing vessel "St. Lawrence," in 1844. After a voyage of seven weeks, via Montreal and the lakes, he arrived in Chicago, from which point he proceeded to Lockport. The trip had been an expensive one, taking all of his money, so that when he reached this county he had only one British shilling left. He was fortunate in at once securing work. Hiram Norton employed him as a millwright in the construction of the Norton mills. Later he acted as purchasing agent for George Barnett and made regular trips to Chicago, returning with supplies. He also acted as superintendent for Mr. Barnett. In time he became himself a contractor and employer of men. He built the Illinois Central bridge at LaSalle and continued contracting and building until his wife died, in the fall of 1865. He then took up quarrying, changing his occupation in order that he might be at home to care for his children. In company with others, he bought the old prison quarries, but gradually he bought the interest of his partners until he finally became the sole owner. The remainder of his life was devoted to the quarry business, and for many years he was the largest shipper of stone from the county. His success in the business induced others to enter it, and thus he proved a great help in developing one of the most important industries of this locality. A Republican in politics, he was, however, not active in public affairs and never cared to hold offices. While he was not connected with any denomination he attended and contributed to the maintenance of the Congregational Church. His home was a substantial residence, built by himself, on the road between Joliet and Lockport. Few residents of the county have been more respected than he, and none have stood higher among their associates and friends. His worth was recognized by all. His character was above reproach. After a very active life he passed from earth December 13, 1898, at the age of seventy-five years, two months and two days. He had been twice married. His first wife was Jane, daughter of George Stephen, who

came to this county at the same time with James Bruce. Five children were born of this union, viz.: Georgiana, deceased; Belle, wife of George P. Stephen, of Lake County, Ill.; William J.; Margaret, wife of J. A. Jamieson, of Marseilles; and Jennie, deceased. By his second wife, Jane Stephen, who was a cousin of his first wife, Mr. Bruce had four sons, namely: Ebenezer S., deceased; James, who is engaged in the grain business at Marseilles; Harry W., deceased; and Robert.

The paternal grandfather of our subject came to America when in middle life and settled in Will County, where he followed the millwright's trade. He had four sons, James, Samuel, Alexander and George. He was a man of great activity and energy. His death was sudden, resulting from cholera. He worked until dark one evening and was buried before daylight the next morning.

While he had very few educational advantages our subject, William J. Bruce, has become a well-informed man, having availed himself of every opportunity to increase his fund of knowledge. When sixteen years of age he began to work in quarries and this business he has since followed. His knowledge of the occupation has therefore been acquired by practical experience. For some years he was in partnership with his father, until the latter's death. The only serious accident with which he has met was caused by the explosion of a keg of powder, which blew him through the side of the house; in the midst of the danger he did not lose his presence of mind, but saved his life by throwing himself in the water at the bottom of the quarry, thus putting out the fire. While he escaped unhurt, his hearing was injured by the accident. As a business man he is quick and active. From his quarry at Romeo he has taken as much as twenty thousand tons a month, the most of which has been shipped to Joliet and South Chicago.

In national politics Mr. Bruce is a Republican, but in local matters is independent, voting for the man rather than the party. He is connected with the blue lodge of Masonry at Lockport. December 23, 1885, he married Jennie, daughter of

William Cameron, of Lockport; she was born in Canada, but has spent her life principally in this county. Her father and her husband's father were born within four miles of each other in Scotland. Of the seven children born to her marriage three are deceased, and the four living are Cameron, Harry, James and Jane. The family occupy a comfortable residence, built in 1896 by Mr. Bruce, and standing on the road between Joliet and Lockport, next to the old Bruce homestead, where he was born.

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**W**ILLIAM RUHE, treasurer of the Crete Farmers' Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company, was born in Rumbek, at Schaumburg, Germany, November 30, 1839. His father, Frederick, a native of the same town as himself, engaged in contracting and building there. When he was forty-five years of age he decided to come to America, and purchased tickets for himself and wife and their five children, but before the day of starting arrived he was taken sick; after an illness of two weeks he passed away. Immediately after his burial the family proceeded on their journey, shipping from Baden and landing in New York after a voyage of forty-two days. Thence they journeyed to Chicago, but a month later left that city and came to Will County, settling six miles south of Crete. This was in 1855, and William was then a boy of almost sixteen. For a year he worked on a farm, after which he followed the carpenter's trade. Being the eldest of the children, the responsibility of caring for the family fell upon him after his father's death. This trust he nobly discharged, caring for the others until they were old enough to become self-supporting. In 1861 he bought a farm in Washington Township, this county, but three years later he sold the place and, after spending two months in Chicago, settled in Crete, where he has since resided. He has engaged in contracting and building contin-



uously, with the exception of five years when he was manager of the Crete Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of sash, doors and blinds. His mother, who bore the maiden name of Louisa Mathias, made her home in this county until her death at seventy-two years of age. Of her children, the second-born died at thirteen years; Louis is living in Crete; Dora married Herman Grote, and lives in Minnesota; and Mary is the wife of Henry Homeyer, of Iroquois County, Ill.

July 6, 1865, our subject married Sophia Koller, who was born near the same town as himself. She came to America when eighteen years old and has made her home in Crete since her marriage, having first come to this village in 1860. Seven children comprise their family, viz.: Sophia, wife of John Lucke, of Crete; William, a carpenter and builder; Emma, wife of August Hartmann; Amelia, at home; Bertha, who married Albert Frye, of Watseka, Ill.; Henry, a clerk; and Augusta, at home. The family are connected with the Lutheran Church.

In political views Mr. Ruhe is independent. In 1879 he served as township collector. For eight years he was village trustee, and for four years served as president of the village. The Crete Farmers' Township Mutual Insurance Company, of which he is treasurer, was organized in 1861, and reorganized twenty years later. It has since grown to be one of the most important enterprises of the locality, a result that is largely due to the energy of its officers. At this writing Christ Scheiwe is president and Herman Schweppe secretary. There are over twelve hundred policies, representing nearly two million dollars, in force in six townships. Of all the mutual companies in the entire state, this company has the finest record. Its success has indeed been remarkable. June 7, 1884, Mr. Ruhe was appointed agent for the company, his territory being Will, Monee, Washington and Crete Townships. In 1897 Crete and Monee Townships were given to his son-in-law, John Lucke, and Will and Washington to H. F. Wilke. In January, 1898, he was elected a director of the company and its treasurer, which positions he has since filled, giving a bond of

\$56,000 in his official capacity. His attention is closely given to the details of the company's business. As treasurer, he is accurate in the keeping of accounts, and his books are models of neatness and accuracy.

**CHARLES A. LARSON.** At the time that Mr. Larson settled in Joliet, in the spring of 1881, there were only five men of his own nationality in the city, the large number of Swedes now represented in the population having settled here since that year. His early experience in his new home proved far less fortunate than his imagination had anticipated. He worked for a few weeks in the Davidson stone quarries, and later was with the Joliet Stone Company, until January 18, 1882, when a premature explosion of dynamite injured him so seriously that for a time his life was despaired of, and it was not until five months later that he was able to leave his room. Being unable to engage again in quarrying, it was necessary for him to seek another occupation, and, in order to fit himself for business, he studied book-keeping for a few months, at the same time acquiring a better knowledge of the English language. In the summer of 1882 he entered the store of Brooks & Strong, with whom, and with their successors, Strong, Bush & Handwerk, he has since continued, being now their head clerk. He is also a director in the People's Loan and Homestead Association. In the spring of 1899 he received the Republican nomination for township collector and was elected by a majority of two hundred and seventy-four, taking the oath of office in April for a term of one year.

Near Boros, Elfsborgslen, Westrejutland, Sweden, Mr. Larson was born July 14, 1862, a son of Lars and Anna (Anderson) Johnson. His father was a member of an old family that owned the estate "Skattegarden," which property was later divided, he receiving the part known as "Aatolsgaarden." In 1883 he came to Joliet,



where he is now living, retired from active labors. His wife, who is also living, was a daughter of Andreas Anderson, a farmer and owner of "Stureryd." Both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Lutheran Church. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the following survive: Johan A., who is engaged in the insurance business in Joliet; Charles A.; Johannes, in Colorado; Alfred, of Peoria, Ill.; and Mrs. Minnie Sophia Eifler, of Englewood, Ill.

The first of the family to settle in America was the subject of this sketch, who, in July, 1880, left Gottenburg for Hull and Liverpool, and thence crossed the ocean on the steamer "Etruria," landing in New York after a voyage of twelve days. On the 2d of August he arrived in Chicago, where a farmer hired him to work on a farm near Peotone, and he continued there for seven months, then came to Joliet. He is one of the best known Swedes in the city, and among those of his own race wields a large influence. A staunch Republican in politics, he has served as a member of the congressional committee for eight years, and has also worked on the county committee. He is a member of the Swedish Republican Club. He holds the office of vice-president for Will County of the Swedish-American Republican State League, and is also secretary of the Swedish-American Republican Club of Joliet. Since 1891 he has been collector for the Fraternal Alliance. He is identified with the North Star Association of Joliet and the North Star Mutual Life Insurance Company of Illinois. When he first came to Joliet there were so few Swedes that it was of course deemed unnecessary and impracticable to hold special religious services of their own. However, he prevailed upon three others to join with him in paying a preacher to come from Rock Island once a month. From that small beginning sprang the Swedish Lutheran Church of which he is treasurer and a member of the board of trustees. In the building of a house of worship he took a warm interest, as he has in all measures for the benefit of the church.

October 3, 1888, in Joliet, Mr. Larson married

Miss Wilhelmina Sophia Jonson, who was born in Oskarshamn, Smoland, Sweden, a daughter of Olaf and Maria Sophia Jonson. Her father, a native of the laen of Kalmar, was left an orphan at five years of age, and when still quite young was obliged to be self-supporting. He became a marine engineer and followed his trade in different parts of Europe, but is now living retired, in Oskarshamn. By his first marriage he had two children, one of whom is living, Mrs. Nils Erikson, of Joliet. His second marriage united him with a daughter of Johan Johnson, an inn keeper, and by her he had one child, Mrs. Larson, who has made her home in Joliet since 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Larson have two sons, Harry Emelius Levi and Ernst Oliver Milton.

**B**ERNARD E. BURKE. In the list of enterprising business men of Joliet, mention belongs to Mr. Burke, who since 1895 has been engaged in the grocery business at No. 314 West Marion street. During that year he bought his present site and opened a small grocery, afterward building up a good trade among the people of the locality, whose confidence he won by his honesty and reliability in business transactions. In 1898 he erected a three-story brick building, 27x60 feet in dimensions, two floors of which are occupied by his stock of groceries, produce and meats.

At No. 150 Comstock street, Joliet, in the ward where he now resides, Mr. Burke was born June 30, 1863, a son of Thomas and Mary (Hennessey) Burke, pioneers of this city. He was educated in the local schools. When seventeen years of age he embarked in the transfer business for himself, and continued until 1895, having his headquarters at Burke's barn, and running two teams. In 1895 he sold the business in order to turn his attention to the grocery trade. He is an energetic and capable business man, and shows excellent judgment in his enterprises.

All movements for the benefit of the city receive

his co-operation, and, as far as possible, his assistance. He is a leader in the local ranks of the Democratic party, and has served as a member of the township and city central committee. As the Democratic nominee in 1896 he was elected alderman from the Fifth ward by the largest majority ever given any candidate in this ward, and two years later he was re-elected to the office. At this writing he is chairman of the committee on schools and license and as a member of the ordinance and west side streets committees. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. He was married in Joliet to Mary, daughter of Joseph Kavanaugh, and a native of Troy Township, this county. They are the parents of two daughters, Mary B. and Helen L.

**CAPT. WILLIAM DOUGALL, M. D.** While Dr. Dougall has been successfully engaged in the practice of medicine in Joliet since 1872 he is perhaps best known to the outside world as the president of the Illinois Pure Aluminum Company, of Lemont, a comparatively recent but very flourishing organization. The company owns a plant in Lemont that is rapidly becoming celebrated and is the largest of its kind in the world. Started in 1892, two years later it came into the charge of its present president, under whose wise oversight the output has been greatly increased. The products include everything in aluminum, from a hairpin to cooking utensils as large as three hundred gallon kettles. Shipments are made to different parts of the United States and to other countries.

Dr. Dougall is a graduate of Chicago Medical School (now the Northwestern University medical department), from which he received the degree of M. D., March 4, 1868. Afterward he practiced at Lemont, Cook County, for four years, and acted as chief surgeon of the Illinois and Michigan canal when it was deepened. Since 1872 he has made his home in Joliet, where, under President Harrison, he held the position of

pension surgeon. At one time he was president and later secretary of the Will County Medical Society, and he is also connected with the Illinois State and American Medical Associations. In 1879 he was appointed postmaster of Joliet by President Hayes and filled the position during the administrations of Garfield and Arthur, retiring in 1883. In 1875 he was elected chairman of the county Republican central committee and continued in that capacity until 1879.

In Paisley, Scotland, March 1, 1842, William Dougall was born to John and Margaret (Houstoun) Dougall. The family descended from the McDougalls, who were represented in the battle of Bannockburn; they were not friendly to the historical Robert Bruce, because one of their family, Red Comyn, had been assassinated by him. John Dougall was born December 10, 1799, and became a cotton spinner near Paisley. In 1858 he brought his family to America and settled near New Haven, Ind., where he died December 28, 1874. His wife was born in Houstoun, Renfrewshire, January 1, 1801, and descended from Sir Patrick Houstoun, a Huguenot, who settled in Scotland about 1585 and became owner of Houstoun castle. Her father, John Houstoun, was a farmer there. Of her twelve children five are living, viz.: Mrs. John Hadden, Allan H., William, Mrs. M. F. Williamson and Mrs. J. F. Beuret. One of her daughters, Isabelle F., Mrs. Williamson, spent thirty years in the mission field of China, and died there in August, 1886.

June 14, 1861, the subject of this sketch was one of the first who enlisted in a three years' regiment, the Fifteenth Indiana Infantry, and was appointed corporal. He took part in the battles of Rich Mountain, Elk Water, Greenbrier (Va.), Shiloh, siege of Corinth, Perryville, Stone River (where he was wounded by a canister shot), Tallahoma and Chattanooga. October 1, 1863, he was commissioned a captain in the Thirteenth United States Colored Infantry, in which capacity he continued until the close of the war. At the charge of Overton, where the colored troops fought nobly, he lost seventeen out of the forty-three men in his company and



also had thirteen wounded. In that charge he was the only man who put his foot on the rebel works, and when the line was formed again he was once more at the front and captured a number of prisoners. His being the color company suffered more than the others. At the close of the war he refused a commission in the regular army and resigned as an officer. Returning to his home he took up the study of medicine, which he has since followed. October 1, 1872, he married Miss Cassie Walker, of Lemont, by whom he has two children, Mary C. and William Houstoun.

At Maysville, Ind., August 18, 1865, Dr. Dougall was made a Mason. Afterward he was senior warden of Mt. Joliet Lodge No. 42, of Joliet. He has also been an officer in Joliet Chapter, R. A. M., and Joliet Council No. 82. In 1872 he was made sir knight in Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T.; in 1880-81 served as eminent commander, and in 1882 was prelate. He has been post commander of Bartleson Post No. 6, G. A. R., and an active member of the Illinois Commandery of the Loyal Legion. Among the business enterprises with which he has been identified is the Lake street elevated railroad in Chicago. Local movements receive his co-operation, and he is justly numbered among the leading professional and business men of his home city.

**N**ILS PETER LINDSTRUM has followed the merchant tailor's trade since he was nine years of age, gaining his rudimentary knowledge of the business under the instruction of his father, Swen Peter Johanson, a merchant tailor, who died in Smaland, Sweden, at seventy-five years of age. The latter had three sons (all in America) and one daughter by his first marriage, and by his second wife, Christine Müller, had only one child, Nils Peter, who was born in Bjelbo, Christdaliasaken, Smaland, Sweden, September 23, 1850. The family being poor it was impossible for him to attend school regularly; in

fact, his entire attendance at the common school was limited to eleven weeks. However, being ambitious to learn, he often devoted his evenings to study and in that way gained a practical fund of information that has proved very helpful to him. As soon as he was old enough to be of assistance he was taken into his father's shop, where he served an apprenticeship to the tailor's trade.

April 21, 1869, Mr. Lindstrum sailed from the old country for America, and after a voyage of fourteen days he landed in Quebec, May 21. Thence he proceeded to Chicago and from there went to Galesburg, Ill., where he worked at his trade for more than two years. On his return to Chicago he secured employment in a tailor's shop. In July, 1883, he came to Joliet, where, in October, 1886, he opened a merchant tailor shop at No. 913 South Joliet street. During the forty years that he has worked at his trade he has acquired a thorough knowledge of all of its details and is a reliable, efficient and skilled workman, whose reputation for honesty and skill has secured him the patronage of first-class customers. Being economical he has saved a fair proportion of his earnings, and is therefore in comfortable circumstances.

The Swedish Republican Club and the Swedish Lutheran Church number Mr. Lindstrum among their members. He is loyal in his devotion to the government and true to his adopted country. One of his half-brothers, S. J. Lindstrum, now of Monmouth, Ill., came to the United States in 1861 and enlisted in an Illinois regiment, where he served until his term expired.

The first wife of Mr. Lindstrum was Mathilda Nelson, who was born in Sweden and died in Chicago. His second marriage took place in Chicago October 20, 1881, and united him with Miss Matilda Peterson, who was born at "Foughuld," Jankopinglaen, Smaland, Sweden. Her father, Peter, who in youth served in the Swedish army, afterward cultivated the farm, "Foughuld," until he came to America. Her mother, Sarah, daughter of Andres Anderson, a farmer, came to the United States and died in Chicago. All of her eight children also came to this country, and all but



one are still living, six of them being in Chicago. Mrs. Lindstrum was third in order of birth and was reared in her native land, whence she accompanied the family to America in 1879, and two years later she was married in Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Lindstrum have many friends among the people of their nationality in Joliet, where they are known and honored for their integrity of character and kindness of heart. They are the parents of two daughters, Matilda C. and Anna W. Lindstrum.

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**G**EORGE C. RAYNOR, M. D. With an experience as a physician extending over the latter half of the nineteenth century, coupled with a broad study of the medical science and remedial agencies, Dr. Raynor readily occupies a position among the leading physicians of Joliet, where he has engaged in practice since March, 1870. It has been his privilege to live in the greatest age of improvement and progress in the world's history. He has seen and kept in touch with the developments in the various fields of science, and particularly those made in his own profession, which has emerged from the realm of charlatanism into its present standing as the most humanitarian of all occupations. Interested in every phase of the healing art, he has been a thoughtful reader of medical literature and a student of the profession through all these years. His standing among the members of the profession here was shown by his repeated election as president of the Will County Medical Society, which organization has enjoyed the benefit of his co-operation. In addition to his private practice he was for twelve years surgeon to the Chicago & Alton Railroad Company in this city.

Dr. Raynor was born in Fairfield, Herkimer

County, N. Y., in 1826, a son of David and Melinda (Mather) Raynor. His grandfather, Stephen Raynor, a native of Long Island, settled upon a farm in Herkimer County, and upon that homestead David Raynor was born and reared. The latter, with the exception of the time spent in the war of 1812, devoted his entire active life to farm pursuits, remaining in his native county until he died at seventy-two years. A man of strict religious life, he was an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church. His wife was born near Utica, Oneida County, N. Y., a member of an old Connecticut family that claimed Puritan descent. Of their ten children all but one attained mature years and four are living. The doctor, who was fifth in order of birth, was reared on the homestead and attended district schools and the Fairfield Academy. In 1849 he entered the University of the City of New York, from which he graduated in 1852, with the degree of M. D. Opening an office in St. Johnsville, Montgomery County, N. Y., he built up a large practice and remained there until he removed to Illinois. For nine years he served as coroner of Montgomery County, N. Y.

For two years Dr. Raynor was master of Matteson Lodge A. F. & A. M., in Joliet. He is also connected with Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T. For many years he has been a member of the vestry of Christ Episcopal Church, in which he has officiated as treasurer of the board. He is an Abraham Lincoln Republican, but, after having voted with the party for years, when in 1896 a gold plank was put in the platform, he felt he could not longer remain with it, for his sympathies have been with the free silver movement, and hence he supports the men and measures pledged to promote the latter cause. In Massachusetts he married Miss Helen Cole, who was born in Berkshire County, that state, and died in Joliet in 1889. The only child of their union is Lansing James Raynor, a business man of Joliet.





*Amos H Scofield*



## AMOS H. SCOFIELD.

AMOS H. SCOFIELD. Of the citizens whose presence in the county proved helpful to its interests none is more worthy of mention than the late Amos H. Scofield, of Plainfield. He was a man of excellent business capacity and one whose dealings were always marked by integrity. During the more than thirty-seven years of his residence in Plainfield he witnessed the changes that transformed the barren prairies of Will County into rich, fertile farms, replaced the cabins by commodious residences, and brought into the county a stream of immigration that founded towns and villages and carried on the work of civilization until Will County has taken rank among the best counties of the state.

The first twenty-one years of Mr. Scofield's life were spent in the state of New York (Genoa Township, Cayuga County), where he was born February 25, 1813. From there he came west and settled on a farm at North Branch, near Chicago, where he tilled the soil for a period of ten years. Next he followed farming in Newark, Ill. In September, 1855, he settled in Plainfield, where for one year he engaged in merchandising. At an early day he purchased four and one-half acres in the best residence portion of Plainfield; of this two lots were sold for residences, and his widow still owns three acres, which forms a valuable homestead.

When the slavery agitation filled the whole land Mr. Scofield was firm in his adherence to abolition principles. Late in life he became a prohibitionist in politics. He was a leading member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, regular in his attendance at church services, Sunday-school and prayer-meeting, and for years

served as a class leader. Up to the last of his long life he retained his deep interest in church work and his declining days were cheered by the hope which religion gives. He died very suddenly February 28, 1893, when eighty years of age, leaving to his friends the memory of an honorable existence, filled with good deeds and helpful acts.

September 18, 1855, Mr. Scofield married Miss Elizabeth Rhodes, who was born in Rensselaer County, N. Y., but in childhood accompanied her parents to Jefferson County, the same state, where she was reared and educated. In 1851 she came to Illinois with a brother and settled near Plainfield. She is a lady whose gentleness of disposition has won for her many friends during the many years of her residence in this vicinity. For sixty-six years she has been a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Though she is now (1900) eighty-two years of age, she is still in the possession of her physical and mental faculties and retains her interest in the world of activity. The twilight of her life is brightened by the esteem of the neighbors and the regard of the people of the town where for so many years she has made her home. On the eighty-second anniversary of her birth, January 27, 1900, she celebrated the occasion by inviting to her home a number of friends, all members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Seven of those assembled were over eighty years of age, and three of these were widows whose husbands had attained eighty years. At the close of the day it was the verdict of all present that the occasion had been one of the most enjoyable and memorable in their lives.

**E**ZRA R. LARNED, M. D. To be a descendant of men who aided the colonies in their struggle for liberty is to belong to the proudest nobility of which America can boast. Many of the best citizens of the present age are those who trace their lineage to Revolutionary forefathers. It is seldom, however, that we find a family with so many representatives in the early struggles as the one of which Dr. Larned, of Joliet, is a member, for he has twenty-three different claims to membership in the Society of Colonial wars, having had twenty-three ancestors in those wars. In addition to belonging to this organization, he is also identified with the Illinois Chapter, Sons of the Revolution.

About 1630 William Larned came to America from the parish of Bermondsey, County Surrey, England, settling in Woburn, Mass. In later years the family removed to Connecticut. His son, Isaac, who was born in Surrey February 25, 1623, took part in the Indian war in 1656; he married Mary, daughter of Isaac Sterns. Their son, Isaac, Jr., was a private in the Indian war in 1675 and was wounded in the fight with the Narragansetts during that year. By his marriage to Sarah Bigelow, he had a son William, who married Hannah Bryant, and made his home at Thompson, Conn. Next in line of descent was Simon, a farmer at Thompson. The latter's son, Thaddeus, was born and reared in that place, where for years he was a prominent agriculturist and a justice of the peace. During the Revolutionary war he served in defense of colonial interests and endured all the hardships incident to those days of struggle, exposure and conflict. One brother, Simon, was in the Revolution and was the founder of the Society of "Cincinnatus." Another brother, Jesse, died of wounds received in campaigns in New York state. George, son of Thaddeus, was for years the owner of Larned's mill at Thompson, where he engaged in the manufacture of cotton. On retiring from business he removed to Wickford, R. I., where he died. He married Maria C. Read, who was born in Thompson, and was a daughter of William Read, of that place.

Albert, son of George and Maria C. (Read)

Larned, was born in Thompson, Conn., but came to Illinois in early life and engaged in the manufacture of lumber in Chicago with W. E. Frost & Co. He still lives in that city, but is now retired from business. He married Elizabeth Wharton, who was born in Powhatan, Ohio. Her father, William Wharton, a native of Powhatan, Baltimore County, Md., removed to Ohio, where he platted and named the village of Powhatan, and for years he was the leading man of that town, being mayor, postmaster and justice of the peace, as well as the proprietor of a general store. His father, Thomas Wharton, was born in Derbyshire, England, and there engaged in the manufacture of cotton. Crossing the ocean to Maryland he engaged in the same business at Powhatan, and later settled in Powhatan, Ohio, where his declining years were spent.

Dr. Larned was one of three children, of whom one is deceased, and one, Mrs. Mary Malkoff, resides in Chicago. One of his lineal ancestors, Lieut.-Col. James Talcott, was commander-in-chief of the colonial forces during King Phillip's war. An uncle of the doctor, Col. Daniel Read Larned, served during the early part of Civil war as captain and assistant adjutant-general on the staff of Major-General Burnside. In 1864 he was breveted major, and the next year, in recognition of his gallantry, was made lieutenant-colonel, being mustered out of the volunteer service with that rank. In 1879 he was made paymaster with the rank of major and later became chief paymaster of the department of California and Columbia. In 1890 he was promoted to be deputy paymaster-general at Washington, D. C., which responsible office he held until his retirement in 1892.

The boyhood years of Dr. Larned's life were passed in Chicago, Ill., where he was born January 23, 1868. When twenty years of age he graduated from the Chicago high school. Afterward he traveled through the United States, and in Mexico and British Columbia. In 1892 he took up the study of medicine, which he carried on under the preceptorship of Dr. Milton Jay for one year. He then entered Rush Medical College, from which, after four years of study, he



graduated in 1897. He came at once to Joliet, where he located at No. 310 Eastern avenue and where he has since engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery. He is connected with the Alumni of Rush Medical College, is past officer in the Nu Sigma Nu, an honorary member of the Chicago Academy of Science, and belongs to the Chicago, Will County and State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. In politics he is a Republican and, in religious connection a member of the Central Presbyterian Church. In Rockford, Ill., he married Camilla, daughter of Henry Don Kersley, who came from Marquette, Mich., to Illinois and settled in Rockford, where his daughter was born. Dr. and Mrs. Larned have one son, Albert Dougall Larned.

**C**HARLES GRAY CHAMBERLIN, the leading undertaker of Lockport, is a descendant of a colonial family of New England that originated in Great Britain. His paternal grandfather, Luther C. Chamberlin, a native of Monroe County, N. Y., born in 1789, held a captain's commission during the war of 1812 and at its close married Miss Thankful Talmadge, of Litchfield, Conn. Some years he spent as a farmer in Monroe County, N. Y., after which for fifteen years he was proprietor of the Henrietta house and also for a long time served as postmaster of Henrietta. In the fall of 1832 he came west to seek a suitable location and found a desirable site in what is now Will County. Returning home for his family, in January, 1833, he again traversed the long distance to the west. He settled one and a-half miles east of Lockport on a government claim. The land was a barren prairie. Pottawatomie Indians still roamed over the trackless plains, unmolested by white men. He spent four years in improving his claim, but in 1837 removed to Peoria, Ill., and seven years later went to Milton, Wayne County, Ind., where he engaged in the grain and warehouse business.

During the existence of the Whig party he adhered to its tenets, and after its disintegration became a Republican. He died in Milton in 1878, having survived his wife for twenty-six years. They had three children, Lewis L., Sempronius S., and Ellen M., Mrs. Norton Davis.

Sempronius Samuel Chamberlin was born in Henrietta, N. Y., August 19, 1817. He came with his parents to Illinois, riding an Indian pony the entire distance. He graduated from Jubilee College in Peoria. When his parents moved to Indiana in 1844 he returned to Will County and began taking contracts for the building of warehouses and other structures. One of his contracts was for the erection of the large warehouse of Norton & Co., of Lockport. In 1848 he built a store and opened an undertaking establishment. During the cholera epidemic of 1854 he and his workmen were kept busy every hour of the twenty-four, as the demands for their services were imperative and needed prompt attention. The coffins were made, by hand, of walnut or whitewood, with walnut tops, and trimmed inside with book-muslin headings. Mr. Chamberlin went personally to the homes of the dead to superintend the arrangements for the burial, and sometimes made as many as eight such calls in one day. In 1873 he opened an undertaking establishment in Joliet. He continued in business as a funeral director until his death, which occurred December 4, 1897. His success financially was due to strict attention to details and fidelity to his business. He was a man of good habits and exemplary life and, although not a church member, was in sympathy with and a contributor to religious work. He refused official positions many times and, aside from voting the Republican ticket, took no part in local affairs.

January 19, 1842, Mr. Chamberlin married Miss Elizabeth S. Gray, who was born in New York and accompanied her parents to this county in girlhood. Her death occurred in Lockport April 9, 1889, when she was seventy-five years of age. In religion she was a member of the Congregational Church. She left two sons,



George N. and Charles G., both of whom are engaged in the undertaking business, the former having succeeded his father in the Joliet business. The younger son, our subject, was born in Lockport, January 30, 1859. When only a small boy he was able to help his father in many ways, and frequently held the light for him nights when he was working at the bench. From the age of eighteen he was in partnership with his father until the latter's death, when he bought the Lockport branch of the business.

The marriage of our subject united him with Miss Mary Emma Taylor, who was born at West Creek, Ind., and from eleven years of age made her home with her grandparents in Lockport. They have three daughters, Eva L., Mary Emma and Josephine E. The family are connected with the Congregational Church of Lockport and Mr. Chamberlin is a contributor to the same. He has been an active Republican and in 1899 was elected collector of the township. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Order of Red Men, the United Order of Foresters, North American Union, Eastern Star Lodge and Lockport Lodge No. 538, A. F. & A. M., in which latter he has held various offices.

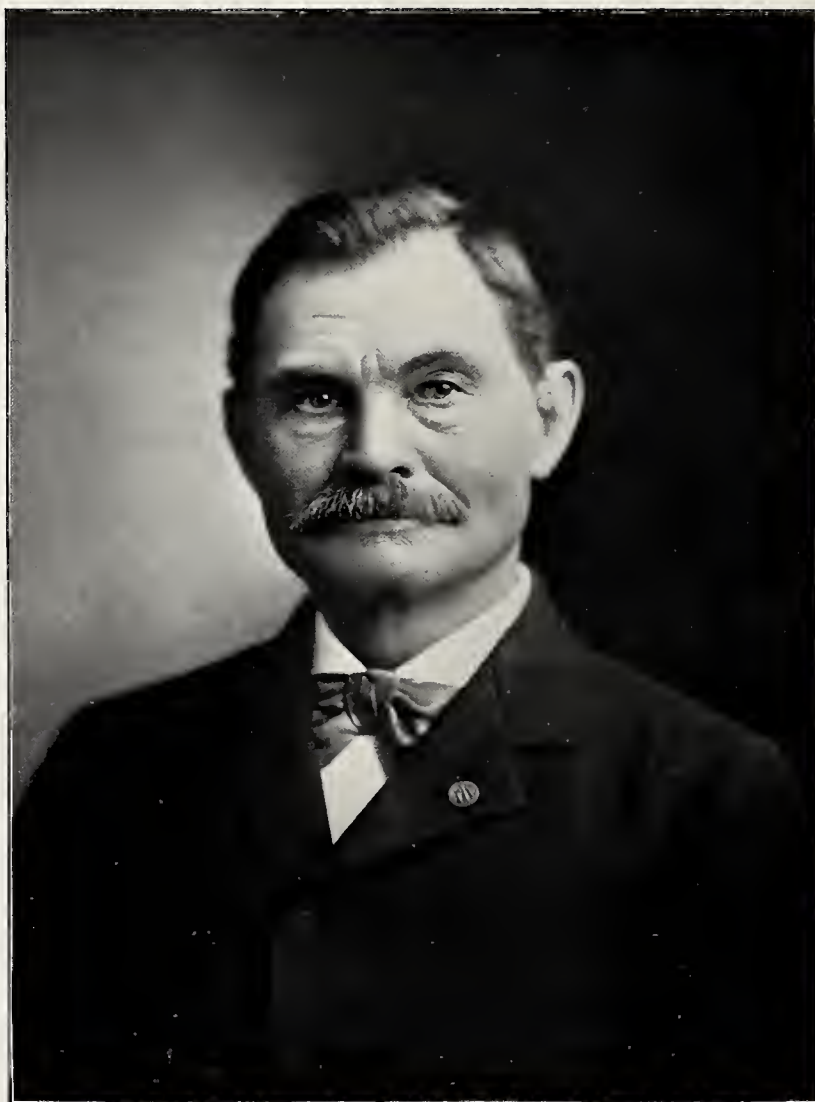
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**JOHN RANFT.** Through an honorable career as a business man, Mr. Ranft laid the foundation of the large trade that is to-day efficiently managed by his widow. He was born in Oberverein, Waldeck, Germany, January 16, 1843, a son of John and Elizabeth (Schneider) Ranft, who lived upon a farm in that country. At an early age he began to support himself, working at any occupation that offered an honest livelihood. In 1864 he crossed the ocean to the

United States, and for a time worked on a farm in New Jersey, receiving \$15 a month. On coming west he spent a short time in Chicago and then settled in Joliet, near which city he worked on a farm for two years. Afterward, for five and one-half years, he worked for the Sehring Brewing Company. In 1884 he bought out Mr. Paige and remodeled the bottling works, after which he engaged in the manufacture of ginger ale, soda water and similar beverages. He was a member of the Joliet Sharpshooters, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Joliet Saengerbund. In the latter society his fine baritone voice made him especially prominent and popular. Politically he voted with the Republicans. He continued to carry on business in Joliet until his death, which occurred July 10, 1892.

The first wife of Mr. Ranft, who was Catherine Metzger, a native of Joliet, died in this city, leaving one child, Annie, who is now living. October 24, 1884, he was united in marriage with Auguste Ernestina, daughter of Henry and Annie (Eggers) Reimers, all natives of Lunden, Holstein, Germany. Her father, who was a carpenter and builder, died when she was twelve, and her mother had passed away two years before. Of the family, three are living, her brother John being a farmer in Greengarden Township, this county, while Gustav lives in Joliet. She was reared in Lunden, and came to the United States in 1883, settling in Frankfort, this county, where she remained until her marriage. In religion she was carefully reared in the Lutheran faith, and has always adhered to its teachings. She is the mother of five children, Bertha, Mamie, Linda, Otto and Flora. Since her husband's death she has continued the business so successfully that she has built up a large trade, not only in the city, but throughout Will and Grundy Counties, and has gained a reputation as an efficient business woman.





*J M Tobias*



## JOB MEADE TOBIAS.

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JOB MEADE TOBIAS, of Peotone, was born in Elmira, N. Y., October 17, 1841, a son of Lorenzo Dow and Lucy Bishop (Fletcher) Tobias. He was one of five children, and has a sister and brother now living, viz.: Susan Avilla, wife of Andrew Watson, of Elmira, N. Y., and Judd S., who is connected with an electric light business in Omaha, Neb. His father was born about four miles north of Burdette, on the east side of Seneca Lake, in New York, about 1807. He grew to manhood on a farm, and after his marriage settled on an unimproved tract of land near Southport. Later he turned his attention to lumbering. His business ability gained him wealth, but through an endorsement of notes, amounting to more than \$100,000, which he was obliged to pay, he lost all his property. In 1857 he came west and settled four miles east of Peotone, in Will Township, where he paid \$12.50 an acre for one-half section of land. After paying for this property he had only \$1,000 left of his once vast fortune. He turned his attention to the stock business, and the heavy advance in prices caused by the Civil war once more placed him in affluence. A year before his death he sold his farm and retired to a small place near town, where he died in 1868. For years he was an active worker in the Methodist Church and a member of its board of trustees. Though not an office-seeker, he held a number of local positions of trust. One of his hobbies was his fondness for a good horse. He knew a fine animal when he saw it, and always liked to have several in his barn. His wife was born near Waverly, N. Y., in 1811, and died in this county in 1882.

The farm where Lorenzo Dow Tobias was born

was a part of a grant of twenty-three thousand and forty acres made by the colony (now the state) of New York to his grandfather, Henry Tobias, who came to America as a captain of a company of Hessians under the British flag during the Revolutionary war. Some time after reaching this country he decided he was fighting for an unjust cause, and so joined Washington's army and helped to free America. In recognition of his services the state of New York granted him a tract six miles square. There he settled and reared his family. His son, Henry, Jr., our subject's grandfather, lived on the same place, but after his death his widow abandoned the property and allowed it to pass out of the family.

When a boy Mr. Tobias, of this sketch, was a pupil of H. M. Aller, afterward a president in the state university of Kansas; Allen C. Storey, in later years a prominent criminal lawyer in Chicago, and Judge Miller, afterward a justice of the United States Supreme Court. He also took a course in the academy at Elmira, N. Y., where he studied civil engineering under Prof. Gillett. When his father came west he was a youth of seventeen. The three following years he aided in the clearing of the new Illinois farm. At the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in the navy and was assigned to the recruiting service, going to New York. After the crew were enlisted they spent some days on board the receiving-ship, and later were sent to duty on the gunboat "Ranger," (now in the Philippine service). Their first engagement was the capture of Roanoke Island. Later they took part in the capture of Newberne and Fort Beaufort. Following this they were on other vessels on short scouting expeditions. On

being mustered out of the navy, in 1862, Mr. Tobias joined the engineering corps of the United States army, and was engaged in the service in North Carolina. During the winter of 1863-64 he visited his parents, after which he enlisted in the Ninth Illinois Cavalry, and was sent to Tennessee to do duty. However, the battle of Nashville had been fought before he reached there, and after pursuing the enemy down into Alabama he and his regiment were mustered out of the service at Selma, Ala.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Tobias went to the frontier of Minnesota, where he worked on government land survey and for other engineering parties. Two years later the death of his father called him home. Here he remained for several years. February 17, 1872, he married Mrs. Sarah May, *nee* Davis, of Swansea, South Wales, but from girlhood a resident of Illinois. By her first husband, Benjamin G. H. May, she had two children, namely, Harriet, wife of W. C. McEwen, of Harvey, Ill., and Sarah Ellen, wife of James A. Cowing, of Homewood, Ill.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Tobias four children were born, viz.: Joseph P.; Harry, who is engaged in the laundry business at Peotone; Frank, a telegraph operator at New Haven, Mo., and Lucy, wife of Warren B. Mather, of Joliet.

Shortly after his marriage Mr. Tobias was sent to Peru, South America, on a surveying expedition for railroad surveying. He spent over three years in that country and crossed the Isthmus twice, meantime learning much concerning Spanish rule and the antiquities of South America. On his return to Illinois he spent a year in Peotone and then went to Wilmington, where he carried on a coal business for two years. Later he became connected with the engineering department of the Wabash Railroad, then building into Chicago, and had charge of the construction of a portion of the road. After the road was completed he was connected with the engineering department of the Tehautepec & Inter-Ocean Railroad in Mexico, where he was employed for two and one-half years as assistant to the chief engineer, having charge of the construction and

location of the route. His position was one of great responsibility, and including the paying of all the workmen. On his return to the States in 1883 he was employed by the Illinois Central Railroad in the construction of some of its branches in Mississippi, which work consumed four years, with the exception of a few months spent at home. On the completion of the work he was for one year proprietor of a meat market, which he had taken on a mortgage. In 1887 he went to New Orleans and engaged in bridge contracting. During his two years in that city he was sent to Central America by a syndicate of contractors to look over the Nicaragua canal. While stationed at New Orleans he received a commission from the Sanitary Commission, backed by the merchants of New Orleans, to look into the sanitary condition of those seaports having direct trade with New Orleans, in order, if possible, to have their vessels avoid the long quarantine. In 1872, while on his way to South America, he met an old friend and acquaintance, the historic Captain Fry, who was then on his way to take command of the "Virginus," and who was later executed at Santiago de Cuba.

In 1889 Mr. Tobias was sent to Cartagena, Columbia, as chief engineer of the Cartagena & Magdalena Railroad, and laid out the route, started the work of construction and continued with the enterprise until 1893, returning to the States in time to visit the Columbian Exposition. His next enterprise was a coal and lumber business at Peotone, and this he conducted until the spring of 1899, when he retired from business.

Fraternally Mr. Tobias is a charter member of Peotone Lodge No. 636, A. F. & A. M., is a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Eastern Star Lodge No. 65. William A. Webb Post No. 657, G. A. R., numbers him among its members, as does also the John A. Smith Garrison, Knights of the Globe. For many years he was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, but resigned after retiring from the business. In politics he is a Republican. He is connected with the Methodist Church, and has served his congregation as a trustee. His life has been an exceedingly active and busy one, replete with inci-



dent and adventure. His business has taken him into many countries, and perhaps no citizen of Peotone has a more thorough and cosmopolitan knowledge than he. After years of successful effort, it is fitting that he should spend the afternoon of his life in a pleasant and comfortable home, surrounded by family and friends, and held in the highest esteem by his acquaintances throughout the country.

**G**EORGE M. CAMPBELL. Of those who are connected with the stone business in Joliet, few have done more than Mr. Campbell to aid its development and foster its success. His name is inseparably associated with the history of the Joliet Stone Company, whose remarkable success was largely due to his energy and judgment. When this property was sold to the Western Stone Company in 1891, he continued with the latter as Joliet manager and stockholder, but after two years sold his interest in the business and resigned his position. About the same time he formed a partnership with J. C. Dennis as Campbell & Dennis, general contractors, which business he now continues alone. He is interested in the supply house of A. W. Hays & Co., which has an office on Cass street, and keeps in stock a general stock of builders' and contractors' supplies. Upon the organization of the Joliet National Bank he was made a director, and two years later was elected vice-president, in both of which positions he has since been retained. He is also a director of the Joliet Republican Printing Company; is treasurer of the Will County Abstract Company, and is interested in the Purington Paving Brick Company, of Galesburg, Ill.

The Campbell family was founded in America by a Scotchman who settled in New Hampshire, and whose son, Samuel, was the grandfather of our subject. A native of New Hampshire, Samuel Campbell removed to Maine and engaged in farming there until his death, at sixty-five years. His son, John B., who was born in Waldo County,

Me., went to sea in boyhood and remained for years in the merchant marine trade, meantime traveling all over Europe. On leaving the sea he became a carpenter and joiner in Belfast, Waldo County, Me., but two years after his marriage removed to Massachusetts. In 1857 he came west, first settling near Marion, Linn County, Iowa, and engaging in the carpenter business. In April, 1862, he came to Joliet, where he became a contractor in the building of canal boats. Subsequently he went to Iowa and established a pleasant country home, "The Pines," in Des Moines, two miles east of the capitol. His last years were devoted to art and literature, and he passed away at the home of his son, George M., in Joliet, when seventy-five years of age.

The marriage of John B. Campbell united him with Margaret W. Norton, who was born at Buck's Harbor, Me., January 16, 1827, and is still living. Her father was born at the same old homestead, though at the time of his birth Maine was still a part of Massachusetts. The great-grandfather Norton, an Englishman, settled at Martha's Vineyard, and afterward built the home at Buck's Harbor; later he took part in the Revolutionary war. John B. and Margaret W. Campbell had three children, two of whom are living, George M., and Mrs. Susan E. Fox, of Denver, Colo.

In Unity, Waldo County, Me., the subject of this sketch was born January 5, 1848. He accompanied his parents in their various removals, and did considerable pioneer farming. While at a small village called Central City, twelve miles north of Marion, Iowa, under his father he learned the carpenter's trade. In 1862 he came to Joliet. He attended the public schools of Joliet, and a private in Springfield, Mass. After leaving school he engaged with a Joliet contractor for a year or more. For a short time he clerked for G. Munroe & Son, after which he entered the stone business, May 23, 1870, as bookkeeper and paymaster for Sanger & Steel, and remained with them until 1875. With George H. Munroe and Daniel C. Hays he started in the stone business. The company was incorporated in 1877



with a capital of \$30,000, under the name of the Joliet Stone Company, Mr. Munroe being president, and Mr. Campbell, secretary, treasurer and manager. The main office of the company was in Joliet, and there were five branch offices in Chicago, to which was run a fleet of boats owned by the company. Thirteen thousand cars of stone were shipped from this company's quarries the last year before it sold out.

While business matters have required his almost constant attention, Mr. Campbell has never neglected his duties as a citizen, but has aided in enterprises for the public good. He has always been a staunch Republican, but has never been an office seeker. For many years he has been a member of the Universalist Church.

On Christmas day of 1873 Mr. Campbell married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Snapp, who was a noted attorney of Joliet and represented this district in congress. The two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Campbell are Jessie M. and Ida A.

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**W**ILLIAM JOSEPH LYONS, who is one of the leading lumber merchants of Joliet, has spent his life in this city, and owns a fine home at No. 616 Western avenue. His father, John Lyons, a native of Ireland, learned the carpenter's trade in youth, and on crossing the ocean to America settled in Joliet in 1849. For a long time he engaged in the building business here, having a number of important and profitable contracts. In 1875 he opened a lumber business on South Bluff street, adjoining the Porter brewery. Six years later he moved to the corner of Desplaines and Clinton streets, and continued actively engaged in business here until 1897, when he transferred the business to his son, William Joseph, and removed to Colorado Springs, his

present residence. For many years he was a member of the board of supervisors of Will County and a leader in the local Democracy. Many of the buildings which he erected are still standing, and their excellent condition testifies to his skill and reliability as a contractor. He married Susan Feeney, who was born in Channahon, this county, and died in Joliet in 1885, at thirty-eight years of age. She was a daughter of Barney Feeney, a native of Ireland, and one of the pioneer farmers of Channahon Township.

Three daughters and four sons comprised the family of John and Susan Lyons. Of these all are living but one daughter. William Joseph, who was next to the eldest of the family, was born at the family home in Joliet, January 1, 1866. After having studied in the public schools for some years, in 1879 he left school in order to learn the lumber business under his father. He was soon made bookkeeper, and acquired a thorough knowledge of the business, of which, in 1890, he took charge. In 1897 he purchased the business, and now has entire charge of the large yards on Clinton and Desplaines streets, where he carries a full stock of lumber and building material. He buys direct from mills in Wisconsin and Michigan, and to some extent also from Southern mills. His entire time is devoted to the lumber business, and he is thoroughly acquainted with all of its details.

In 1892-93 Mr. Lyons held the office of secretary of the city Democratic committee. He is a member of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and the Western Catholic Union. Fraternally he is connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Knights of Honor, Modern Woodmen of America and Knights of Columbus, and is a member of the board of directors of the last-named order. His marriage, in Harvard, Ill., united him with Miss Hannah L. Sweeney, who was born in that city. They have three children, Horace R., Gladys Marie and William Joseph, Jr.





*J. C. Baldwin*



## DAVID CLARK BALDWIN.

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**D**AVID CLARK BALDWIN. The life of Mr. Baldwin was inseparably associated with the history of Lockport. In fact the village owed its existence in no small measure to his efforts, for he was one of its incorporators as well as one of its first officials. During the sixty-two years of his residence here he witnessed the transformation of the place from a small and isolated frontier town to a populous and thriving commercial and agricultural center, whose manufacturing interests make it one of the important towns of northeastern Illinois. It was his privilege to live to see what was during the '30s a region of almost unsettled land transformed into a finely improved country containing cities and villages of commercial importance. In all of the arduous and stirring scenes of pioneer life he was a prominent figure. His was the hand that helped in every forward movement, his the eye that discerned a favorable opportunity and his the mind that planned, years ago, a prosperous future for his home town. There was scarcely a business measure projected in early days with which his name was not associated. To illustrate his connection with pioneer transactions it may be stated that some wheat he purchased went into the first flour manufactured in Lockport, and this flour was sold in Chicago, entering into the shipment of the first hundred barrels of flour sent from that market. At the time he came west Chicago was an unknown region, whose site was occupied by Fort Dearborn, with its officers' houses and barracks and a scattering village on Lake Michigan. As Chicago grew he kept in touch with its development and made many friends among the leading wholesale merchants of that city. For many years, and until his retirement in 1888, he engaged in

various lines of merchandising, and in this way had constant relations with wholesale dealers. With them he held a high position, and many a busy merchant left his desk on Mr. Baldwin's entrance in order to enjoy a social talk with him. His credit was the highest, and even the loss of his business block (a calamity that twice overtook him) failed to affect his credit in the least, but only served to emphasize the high confidence in which he was held, and brought him many offers of financial assistance. In the credit book of a commercial traveler, opposite Mr. Baldwin's name, were the words, "Good as gold," and this statement found echo with all of his associates in business.

The Baldwins are an old eastern family. Benjamin Baldwin, a native of Woburn, Mass., was a highly educated man. His son, Timothy, our subject's father, was born at Canterbury, Conn., April 15, 1775, and died in that state in 1840. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary Lathrop, was born in Connecticut May 27, 1780, and died there in 1852. Their son, David C., was born at Canterbury April 23, 1810, and at an early age began to teach school, which occupation he followed in Connecticut, New York, Ohio and Illinois. It was in 1834 that he came to Lockport. For a time he engaged in teaching and had charge of the first school in Homer Township. Later he entered business. He proved himself to be a man of unusual business ability, keen, careful and conservative, yet energetic and progressive. Being the soul of honor and integrity, he retained the confidence of associates. It is rare, indeed, that a man is met in whom are combined so many noble traits as appeared in Mr. Baldwin's character. Of all the

people in the town there was none but had a good word for him. Young men venerated him and children were always his friends, while those more nearly his own age were bound to him by ties of intimate and long association. During the latter years of his life he became deeply interested in floriculture and devoted much time to the raising of plants. His leisure hours were spent with his flowers. He was a diligent botanical student, and understood the entire growth of plants, from the embryo leaves and roots to the mature plants with their flowers. The contrast afforded between the cares of business and the supervision of his plants seemed restful to him and afforded him one of his greatest pleasures.

May 18, 1865, occurred the marriage of Mr. Baldwin to Miss Cornelia A., daughter of Elias and Mary (Paine) Freer. Her father, a native of New York, removed to Illinois in 1836 and settled at Forked Creek, eight miles east of Wilmington. He had been a tanner in the east, but here he engaged in farm pursuits. After a few years he settled in Plainfield. In 1861 he came to Lockport, where he died at the age of eighty years. He was a stanch Whig and an anti-slavery man. During the latter part of the war of 1812 he enlisted in the American army, serving until the close. His father, John, served in the Revolutionary war. The family is of French-Huguenot descent. The mother of Mrs. Baldwin was born in Bennington, Vt., removed to New York in girlhood and died in Lockport in 1879, when eighty-seven years of age. Both she and her husband were active members of the Christian Church. They were the parents of nine children who reached maturity; of these Mrs. Boylan, Mrs. Baldwin and Mrs. Hanford are living.

At the time the family came west Mrs. Baldwin was a child of eight years. She was educated under private tutors at home and in the schools of Miss Carr and the Misses Whiting, where she met many young ladies who afterward became prominent in the highest social circles of Chicago. For years she has been identified with the Baptist Church, and has maintained a deep interest in religious work for half a century.

The only child born to her marriage, Alice Louise, died when in her sixth year. Afterward Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin adopted a daughter, Edith, who is now the wife of O. F. Russell and makes her home with her mother.

After an active and useful life Mr. Baldwin entered into eternal rest, December 19, 1896.

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**H**ORATIO N. MARSH. Of the many thousands of men now living in Joliet no one has been a resident of the city for so long a period as has Mr. Marsh. During the entire period of his connection with local history he has maintained a deep interest in the development of the city's resources and has aided in its advancement. No one is better posted than he concerning incidents connected with the history of Joliet, and many of these he has written up, thereby giving them a permanent value. One of the local matters in which he has been interested has been the pronunciation of Joliet, and it was largely through his influence that an ordinance was passed by the city council, April 22, 1895, declaring the proper pronunciation of the word to be Jō'-li-et. To stir public sentiment on the subject he read a poem at one of the schools February 27, 1894, which was afterward published and widely distributed, and which accomplished not a little toward the end sought. We quote from it the following lines:

If by some other name the fair rose that we greet,  
Has a beauty as rare, and a fragrance as sweet,  
Does it follow of course that its friends should not claim  
For their favorite flower its own beautiful name?  
So our city, misnamed, may appear just as fair,  
And its crown of achievement as royally wear,  
Yet who would not wish it might ever be known  
By the name it was christened, and that name alone?

As one reaches our city, ere brakes can be set,  
The brakeman officially cries: Jol-ly-yet!  
And at the hotel, asked the name of the place,  
Of the gem-bedecked clerk, with the rubicund face,  
"Can I tell you the name sir," he answers: "You bet!  
What else could you call it but straight Jo-li-ette."  
But the clerk with the register does not agree;  
Printed Jo-li-et plainly as any may see!



But pronouncing so badly, though only a fad,  
Has led to a spelling as wretchedly bad.  
In warehouse and store, and abroad on our streets,  
And on missives by mail, what strange spelling one  
meets.

We have Joliette and Joilet and quaint Jolleyette,  
And scores of strange "spells" we would gladly forget!  
But a truce to bad spelling; we sadly deplore,  
As practiced too oft, its orthoepy more;  
And marvel that people of culture proclaim,  
Their own lack of taste, mispronouncing the name;  
And more, that such errors in usage abound  
When a uniform standard is readily found!

If we turn to the library, kind Mrs. Mack,  
To the goal we are seeking will show us the track;  
And as lexicons modern and musty we turn  
Our search to reward we this lesson shall learn:  
— That in spelling and accent the standards agree;  
And the name of our city must Jo-li-et be!  
True, the Frenchman will sound the first syllable Zho,  
While the Saxon, less musical, calls it plain Jo,  
But he it was named for would never have known  
His name as oft heard in this city of stone.

With the right and the wrong so distinctly in view,  
What, as people of culture and taste, shall we do?  
To the wrong tamely yield, or continue the fight  
Till the wrong dies ignobly, and triumph the right!  
With our schools may our pulpits and platforms unite,  
To drive these misnomers from hearing and sight;  
The speaker who slights such grammatical laws,  
Should be greeted with hisses instead of applause;  
The teacher who would not correctly pronounce  
The name of his Patron deserves the grand bounce;  
And the pupil so stupid, a vigorous whack  
Of the pedagogue's rule on the end of his back!

And brakeman, oh! brakeman, in pity forbear  
With uncouth Jolley-yet to encumber the air;  
And far prettier Jo-li-et give to the ear  
Of the traveler waiting your message to hear;  
Do this and we'll honor you living, and dead  
A Jo-liet marble will place at your head.

Genealogical records show that the Marsh family accompanied William the Conqueror from Normandy to England, settling in the Marsh country, from which fact their name was derived. The family in America descends from two brothers and a cousin who came from England, two settling in Massachusetts and one in Connecticut. This branch descends from John Marsh, who settled in Hartford, Conn., in 1635. In 1711 his descendants settled on a farm in the town of Montagua, near Deerfield, Franklin County,

Mass., where were born Jonathan Marsh, his son Quartus, and grandson, Horatio N. In 1835 Quartus Marsh came to Illinois and settled on a farm near Crete, where he died in 1850. He married Sallie Holt, who was born near Deerfield, of English descent, and died in this county. Of their six children, Mary A. and Jonathan died in this county and Francis in Piatt County; Edwin lives in Chicago and Henry in Kansas.

The oldest son in the family, Horatio N., was born November 15, 1812. He distinctly remembers the dedication of Bunker Hill monument and Lafayette's visit to the United States. In 1827 he accompanied his parents to western New York, settling near Rochester. Soon afterward he was apprenticed to the cabinet-maker's trade, which he followed for some years. In November, 1835, he came to Illinois, making the trip by packet to Buffalo, thence by steamer to Detroit, from there across Michigan by wagon and on to Joliet. All of those whom he accompanied settled in eastern Will County, then a part of Cook County. In 1836 Will County was organized, and the same year a bill was passed for the construction of the canal. On account of lack of funds the work was temporarily suspended, but some years later the state obtained a loan from England and work was resumed, the canal being completed in 1849. Its completion enabled the people of Will County to board a packet and be in Chicago in ten or twelve hours, which they considered very satisfactory. With the building of the Rock Island road in 1852 the distance was covered in less than two hours.

After working for a short time as a journeyman cabinet-maker Mr. Marsh opened a shop of his own on the east side, but later moved to Bluff street. He continued in the business until hand work was superseded by machinery products when he quit. In 1852 he entered the employ of the Rock Island Railroad, being the first agent appointed on the new road, and he continued to be their agent, with the exception of three years (1863-66), when he was postmaster, until 1883, when he resigned on account of age. During the last years of his connection with the railroad its business here aggregated \$500,000 annually,



and his responsibilities as freight and passenger agent constantly increased. After resigning as agent he engaged in the insurance and real-estate business, continuing ten years, when he retired from business. Fifty years ago he built a residence on what is now Broadway and here he has since made his home.

Possessing literary ability, Mr. Marsh has always been interested in newspaper work and has been a constant reader of local and general history. From 1847 to 1852 he was editor of the old Whig paper, which was called the Joliet *True Democrat* and which had the largest circulation of any paper for miles around. This paper has since been merged into the Joliet *Republican*. In 1848 Mr. Marsh advocated the nomination of General Taylor. In 1850 he took the census of Will County. He was interested in the effort to build a road from Joliet to Valparaiso, Ind., to connect with the Grand Trunk Railroad, but on account of the building of the Michigan Central road, the other road never materialized. During his service as alderman he was chairman of the committee on claims. For some years he was a member of the school board and during that time, with others, he began the building of the fine schoolhouses in which Joliet now excels. He was one of the organizers of the First Presbyterian Church, and has since been an active member and ruling elder, also a participant in Sunday-school work. In 1836 he voted for William Henry Harrison and afterward continued a Whig until the dissolution of the party, since which he has been a staunch Republican. For many years he was a member of the Tippecanoe Club of Chicago.

In Monroe County, N. Y., Mr. Marsh was married, in 1835, to Miss Mary Kile, who died leaving an only child, William H. The latter enlisted in the Third Illinois Infantry and was fatally wounded at Vicksburg, where he died. The second marriage of Mr. Marsh united him with Miss Mary L. Pond, now deceased, of Monroe County, N. Y. Their only child, Frank E., who is engaged in the grain business in Joliet, married Miss Kate Richmond, of Joliet, and has two sons, both graduates of the Illinois State

University, the older of whom is engaged in medical missionary work in Point Barrow, Alaska, and the younger is an electrician in Minneapolis. Mr. Marsh was married again, February 9, 1870, to Miss Jennie R. Foster, of Delavan, Wis. She was born October 3, 1831, and died September 7, 1896.

As is commonly known, the city of Joliet is named in honor of Monsieur Joliet, a man of many remarkable qualities, whose self-sacrificing labors left their impress upon the subsequent history of the county. He was a companion of Father Marquette. In 1672, when he and Marquette were returning from an expedition on the Mississippi, they traveled up the Illinois and Desplaines rivers and discovered Mount Joliet, which was named in his honor. When the town of Joliet was laid out in 1834 it was recorded Juliet by an ignorant man, who was unfamiliar with the origin of the name; hence for some time it was often called Juliet or Juliette, but by act of legislature the name was changed to Joliet.

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**HENRY D. HIGINBOTHAM.** The Higinbotham family originated in England, whence some of the name removed to the Barbadoes during an early period of American settlement. Later generations were actively identified with the progress of New England, where they prospered in the pursuit of such occupations as were then in vogue. Charles Higinbotham, who was the son of a captain of a whaling vessel, was born in Rhode Island November 14, 1779, and in youth accompanied his parents to Otsego, N. Y., where he married Miss Gertrude Dumont, of Westford, the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier. Some time after his marriage he removed to Allegan County, Mich. He died August 18, 1844. His wife survived him for fourteen years, dying July 17, 1858, when seventy-eight years of age.

The second of the four sons of Charles Higinbotham, Henry D., was born in Worcester, Ot-

sego County, N. Y., January 10, 1806. He was reared to manhood upon a farm and early acquired a thorough knowledge of agriculture, at the same time learned the trade of a blacksmith. In 1831 he married Miss Rebecca Wheeler, of Westford, N. Y., but a native of Canaan, Columbia County, that state. Soon after their marriage they settled in Oneida, N. Y., where Mr. Higinbotham opened a blacksmith's shop and worked energetically at his trade. However, he did not feel satisfied to remain in the east, where opportunities were few in comparison with those offered by the rich but unpopulated west. Long before Horace Greeley had uttered his immortal words: "Go west, young man," he had determined to follow that "star of empire" which "westward takes it way."

While Will County was still a part of Cook, Mr. Higinbotham settled on Hickory Creek, east of what is now Joliet. It was in June, 1834, that he arrived in the region with whose upward growth he was to be so intimately identified. His first step was to secure land. He entered one hundred and sixty acres two and one-half miles east of Joliet. With his wife he established a little home in the midst of frontier surroundings. There, working with stout hearts and steady industry, they made their home for many years. It was his task to clear the land, cultivate the fields, build necessary buildings and make desired improvements. With the flight of the changing years he added to his property and its value constantly increased. Soon he came to be recognized as one of the foremost farmers in the county. His knowledge of agriculture was thorough and broad, covering every branch of the occupation. He thoroughly demonstrated the superiority of diversified farming, and through his varied interests gained what was in those days a large fortune. The three hundred and twenty acres of land he owned were mostly under cultivation. Besides the management of his landed interests he owned a grist-mill, which for years he conducted successfully. While he did not live to be an old man, yet, after sharing in the toils and privations of pioneer existence, he was spared to witness and enjoy the comforts

rendered possible by the energy of the early settlers. His earnest labor brought its own reward. Nor was his success only in a financial sense; for, in a larger degree, he was successful in winning and retaining the respect of his acquaintances, the esteem of his associates. He was regarded, not only as a modern farmer, whose example could be emulated with profit, but also as an upright man and a good citizen, whose character was "sans peur et sans reproche." Those who knew him say that he was a man of quiet, unostentatious disposition, and one whose words were few, but every word was weighed before uttered; no statement was ever made thoughtlessly or carelessly. In physique he was strong and stalwart, possessing the muscles of an athlete, with a soldier's powers of endurance. He was a Knight Templar Mason, who lived up to the lofty teachings of that illustrious order. In religion he was of the Universalist faith.

In 1854 he sold his farm and mill and moved to Joliet, establishing his home at No. 1009 Cass street, which is still known in the city as the Higinbotham homestead. On moving here he became a director in the Will County Bank, and was afterward interested in that institution as long as he lived. The last eleven years of his life were not the least active or fruitful of his busy career. He aided in advancing the interests of the city, where he exerted a wholesome and salutary influence upon the people. He witnessed the growth of the county from a poor and sparsely settled community to one of the foremost in the state. He was known for his sound and careful judgment as a business man; for his enterprise that made him willing to identify himself with any movement for the good of the people. After eleven years in Joliet he passed away at his home in this city, March 13, 1865.

The marriage of Mr. Higinbotham united him with a daughter of Samuel B. Wheeler, a native of New England, and a sister of Mansfield Wheeler, who settled in Will County in 1832. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Higinbotham comprised the following sons and daughters: Harlow Niles Higinbotham, member of the firm of Marshall Field & Co., of Chicago; Albert, who



served in Scott's Chicago regiment during the entire Civil war and died in Joliet; Ambrosia, wife of Merritt O. Cagwin, and the present occupant of the Higinbotham homestead; Mrs. Ann Eliza Demmond, of Joliet; Mrs. Gertrude Leddy, and Mrs. Ellen Darwin, both of whom died in this city; and Charles, who is connected with the Elgin postoffice.

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**H**ARLOW N. HIGINBOTHAM. None of the native-born sons of Will County surpass Mr. Higinbotham in far-reaching influence. For years he has been connected with one of the largest mercantile establishments in the world, the success of which has been promoted by his able oversight. But his prominence is not limited to mercantile circles. In public affairs he has been a leading figure. As president of the World's Fair he gained an international distinction. It was his enthusiasm that did much to start the movement for the exposition that achieved greatness in its fulfillment, rendering possible, in the midst of our busy workaday world, the establishment of a "Dream City," more fair than artist's brush could reproduce, and more beautiful than the imagination of the beholder had ever conceived. Nor has he, in the remarkable success of his later years, forgotten the home of his boyhood. He still retains his interest in Will County, among whose people his name is often mentioned as a worthy candidate for United States senator. Near the old home where he was born he has built a mansion that is perhaps the most elegant of any country home in Illinois. When possible for him to secure a day's respite from his business cares he may be found at the old homestead, superintending its many important interests, and giving directions regarding the management of the estate. The creation of this beautiful place is itself the work of a master-hand; a "dream city" with park and palace, a vision of enchanting grace never to be forgotten by the passer-by.

Needless to say, the people of the city and county are proud of this place, and prouder yet of the career of the owner, and who is still alluded to as "one of our boys." Harlow N. Higinbotham is a prince among men, and a marvelous production of our western civilization—a brain firm and fine as adamant, a heart pure as gold and tender as a woman, a knight of the twentieth century, who hardly without self-realization, is a true type of an humble follower of the "Nazarine." The true story of the inner life of Harlow N. Higinbotham will never be written; he must and will live in the hearts of those whom he has benefited.

The various benevolent institutions which he has helped to establish and put on a sound financial basis will assist to keep alive the memory of a man whose whole life can be an example to every young man, not only in Will County, but in the whole world. The result of his financial success we can see and estimate, but the good deeds done, the suffering relieved, the happiness and sunshine entering at his command thousands of hearts, we cannot see, except in occasional glimpses; they are written in the Book of Life, from whence the real reward will emanate. The evening of his life will be spent in the old homestead, and as the shadows lengthen on the hillside, proclaiming the dawn of the real life, his retrospections will be pleasant, his rest well earned, and the old Will County friends dearer than ever.

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**F**REDERICK R. STRYKER. The Joliet Mound Drain Tile Company, of which Mr. Stryker is general manager and a director, is one of the leading organizations of the kind in Illinois. When he took a position with it as a workman in the mechanical department, just prior to the thirtieth anniversary of his birth, the plant was small and the output meager. In 1880 he was made manager of the works, on section 19, Joliet Township, and afterward completely remodeled the plant, built new kilns and



made important additions, so that the works were the most complete in the state. For years the company controlled the price of tile in the state. The capacity of the works is three million feet per annum. Formerly the products were sold almost exclusively in this locality, but now shipments are made throughout this state and into Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana. Employment is furnished to between twenty and forty men, the number varying with the amount of work to be turned out, and the product is drain tile exclusively. The other directors and officers of the company being men who have business interests of their own, Mr. Stryker is responsible for the entire management, and its prosperous condition is the result of his able oversight. He is a stockholder in the works, as well as manager and a director.

In Cook County, Ill., our subject was born May 8, 1847, a son of John Adam and Elizabeth (Miller) Stryker. His father, who was born December 1, 1804, in Wurtemberg, Germany, came to America from Germany in 1828 and spent two years in New York, thence migrated to Illinois in 1830. He had previously worked as a cabinet-maker, but on coming to Cook County took up a claim and engaged in farming, which he followed until his death at sixty years. He was a man of great physical strength and powers of endurance. Up to the time of Fremont's candidacy he was a Democrat, but afterward voted the Republican ticket. During the early days he served in all of the township offices; and in the deciding of disputes regarding claims he was called upon to act as judge. By his marriage to Elizabeth Miller he had eleven children. Of these ten reached maturity and nine are now living. Mrs. Elizabeth Stryker was a daughter of George Miller, a native of Berlin, Germany.

When sixteen years of age our subject secured a clerkship in Chicago, receiving \$3 a week at first. Afterward he became an agent for the sale of farm machinery, in which he was employed from nineteen to twenty-nine years of age. He then came to his present location, and has since engaged in the manufacture of drain tile. He owns and occupies a farm of one hundred and

fifty-four acres on section 24, Troy Township, but the place is cultivated by tenants, his time being given wholly to his business. Politically he was an enthusiastic Republican up to the time of Cleveland's second election, when he favored his candidacy and voted for him. Since then he has been independent, preferring to support the men whom he deems best qualified to represent the people rather than follow strict party lines. He is interested in the questions of the day, but his business takes his time to the exclusion of other things, and he is therefore not a politician in the ordinary usage of that word. In 1873 he was made a Mason and has since then joined the chapter at Evanston, Ill.

In April, 1875, Mr. Stryker married Carrie Eloise, daughter of Ira Millard, who was a pioneer of Cook County and a native of Connecticut, but a resident of New York state prior to coming west. Her maternal grandfather was Gen. Lewis Peet, who fought in the war of 1812, and on the maternal side she was also connected with the Seymours, of New York. Her father's father and Millard Fillmore's mother were brother and sister. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stryker, six of whom are living. The oldest, Ira Millard Stryker, who is cashier in the works here, married Alice M. Sammons, daughter of Duane Sammons, a pioneer farmer of this county. The other children are: Gertrude Frances; Elizabeth Bell; Clara Winifred; Mary Seymour, whose middle name comes from Dr. Seymour, of Troy, N. Y.; and Frederick Fillmore.

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**E**PHRAIM BAYARD, superintendent of the Bessemer department of the Illinois steel works, is familiar with every detail of the business, to which his attention is closely given. By his efficient management he has proved himself "the right man in the right place." He understands thoroughly the manufacture of steel, and his broad experience in every position, from the lowest to that of superintendent, has proved of inestimable value to him. In the con-

verting department, of which he has charge, four hundred and ten men are employed, of whom two hundred are skilled workmen. The capacity is over one thousand tons in twelve hours.

In the converting department there are twenty-eight boilers and three blowing engines, one of five thousand, another of twenty-four hundred and the third of eighteen hundred horse power; with eight pressure pumps, which furnish pressure throughout the mill of four hundred pounds per square inch. The pig iron is graded to one one-hundredth per cent. This iron, combined with steel scrap, is charged with coke and limestone. After melting it is tipped into a caldron and conveyed by electric crane into the mixer, which has a capacity of two hundred and eighty tons. The furnace metal is also brought in a molten state into this mixer by means of cranes, and by means of hydraulic pressure the mixer is tipped sufficiently to pour the metal from it into another ladle, which conveys the metal, after thorough mixing, into the converters. It is poured in by hydraulic pressure, after which the blast from the blowing engines is turned on, and the converter by hydraulic pressure is placed in a vertical position until such time as the metal has been converted into steel with the adding of different properties to bring it to the required grade of steel. Afterward the converter is turned and the molten steel poured into a huge ladle, which is conveyed by the hydraulic crane over the moulds and then poured into the large moulds and allowed to remain until chilled sufficiently to permit the withdrawing of the moulds, leaving the steel ingots still at white heat; this is also done by hydraulic pressure. The ingots are then conveyed on cars to the furnaces, to be charged for reheating, and in due time they are drawn and rolled, thus completing the process.

Mr. Bayard was born in Toronto, Canada, July 18, 1868, a son of Robert and Ellen (Johnston)

Bayard, natives respectively of England and Ireland. His grandfather, James Bayard, brought the family to America and settled near Toronto when Robert was a child of three years. The latter spent all of his active life in Toronto, where he was engaged as a contractor and builder. He died in that city in February, 1889, when fifty-nine years of age. His wife, who is still living in Toronto, was a daughter of Matthew Johnston, a native of County Sligo, Ireland, who settled near Toronto and engaged in farm pursuits there. Our subject was the fifth among eight children, all of whom are living. He was reared in Toronto, attending the grammar and high schools there. In the fall of 1884 he went to Cheboygan, Mich., where he engaged in the lumber business. For two winters he engaged in scaling and measuring, and during the summers was fireman on tug boats. In the third season he secured a position as an engineer. From that time until he came to Joliet he was engineer of the large tug "Duncan City," on the straits of Mackinaw. In 1887 he settled in Joliet, where he secured employment in the steel works, beginning as a laborer in the converting department. A year later he received promotion, and was given charge of the repairing and building of the bottoms of the converters. In 1891 he was given charge of the steel pouring, and in the fall of 1892 was made foreman of the converting mill. June 15, 1897, he was made superintendent of the converting department, which responsible position he has since filled, showing ability and intelligence in the discharge of his duties.

Politically Mr. Bayard is a Republican, stanch and loyal to the party, but not caring for political positions for himself. He owns a residence that he built at No. 407 Richards street, and here he and his wife, who was Cora Belle Newton, a native of New Jersey, have established a pleasant and attractive home.







Chas Rock

## CHARLES ROST.

CHARLES ROST, superintendent of the county poor farm in Troy Township, was born in the Kagenow, Pomerania, Prussia, December 11, 1841, a son of Carl and Mary (Rosz) Rost. His father, who was a forester in Germany, came to the United States in 1862, and settled upon a farm near Macomb, McDonough County, Ill., remaining there until his death in 1881. His wife survived him for years, dying in 1898. In religious belief both were Lutherans. They were the parents of seven sons, six of whom are living, three being in Macomb, one in Des Moines, Iowa, and another in Kokomo, Ind.

Of these sons our subject was the eldest. When the family decided to come to America it was deemed best to have him come first, alone, in order that he might acquire a knowledge of the language and customs of the people before the others joined him. In 1859 he crossed the ocean in an old sailing vessel, "Columbia," starting from Hamburg and arriving in the new world after a voyage of sixty-two days. He secured employment in a wire factory at Worcester, Mass. During the Civil war, when the first call was made for three-year men, he at once responded to the call, and enlisted at Boston in Company B, Twentieth Massachusetts Infantry. While in the army he took part in thirty-one battles, embracing all of the principal engagements. Twice he was wounded in the battle of Gettysburg, after which he spent some time in the hospital at Portsmouth Grove, R. I. He was taken prisoner at Antietam, also in front of Petersburg in 1864, and was held in Libby and Belle Isle prisons, and at Salisbury, N. C. From

the ranks he rose to be sergeant, and after the battle of the wilderness was commissioned lieutenant. He was honorably discharged in Boston, July 14, 1865.

The war ended, Mr. Rost went to Leavenworth, Kans., and was appointed in the quartermaster's department, to take twenty-four six-mule teams across the plains, via the Arkansas River and Smoky Hill route, conveying supplies to forts. He continued in the government employ until 1867, when he joined a battalion raised to suppress the Indians. He raised a company in Leavenworth, of which he was first lieutenant, under Oklahoma Payne as captain. The company took part in a number of hard fights along the Arkansas and Smoky Hill rivers. In the fall of 1867 he was mustered out at Fort Ellsworth. Going south, he engaged in the construction of bridges and trestles on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad for six years. When work was begun upon the extension from Cairo to Jackson, Tenn., connecting with the Mississippi Central, he took a contract for constructing a portion of the line. While working in the swamps below Cairo he was taken ill with malarial fever and, acting upon the advice of his physician, returned north to Macomb. When Major McClaughrey was appointed warden of the state penitentiary, Mr. Rost accompanied him to Joliet as steward, which position he filled for fifteen years, until the election of John P. Altgeld as governor. He was then chosen superintendent of the county poor farm, to which position he has been re-elected for seven consecutive terms. The county buildings as they now stand were erected by him in 1892, the main building being a three-

story stone structure with a capacity for two hundred inmates. There are now one hundred and thirteen inmates, fifty-two of whom are incurably insane. The farm is situated four miles west of Joliet and comprises one hundred and sixty acres, which are cultivated with so much judgment and energy that each year, over and above all that is raised for use by the patients, there is a profit of between \$1,000 and \$1,500.

Fraternally Mr. Rost is connected with the Knights of Pythias, Burlington Post No. 6, G. A. R., the Military Order of Loyal Legion, and Matteson Lodge No. 175, A. F. & A. M. He is a Presbyterian in religion and a Republican in politics. In Clarksville, Tenn., November 13, 1871, he married Margaret O'Connor. Four children were born of their union, three of whom are living, namely: Alpha, wife of Carl E. Haffner, of New York City; Lulu, wife of J. F. Frederick, M. D., of Joliet; and Carl, bookkeeper for the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad Company.

**H**ON. EVERETT J. MURPHY. The services which in the past Mr. Murphy has rendered the people of the twenty-first district of Illinois as their representative in the United States congress, and which he is now rendering the people of the state in the office of warden of the Illinois penitentiary, entitle him to rank among the eminent men of the state. In the councils of the nation he has won for himself an enviable reputation for statesmanship. As a member of congress he proved himself well able to occupy a high rank among the many gifted men of that body. By his keen judgment and large mental endowments he has aided not a little the progress of the Republican party in the nation. Reared in that faith and early familiar with its principles, he saw no reason, on arriving at mature years, for changing his political belief; in fact, the history of the nation during the past decade has made him a stronger advocate than before of Republican doctrines. Yet, though he has lived in a time of partisan strife, his attach-

ment for his party has been broad and deep—the attachment of a patriot, not that of a mere politician, and he has in his career exemplified the old maxim that “He serves his party best who serves his country best.” In the office of warden, to which he was chosen at a comparatively recent date, as the successor of Major McLaughrey, he has already proved himself to be the right man in the place. His attention is very closely given to the duties of his office, which leave him little leisure for recreation or for society; yet, in the midst of many pressing responsibilities, he keeps in touch with the progress of events in the country and in his party, and formulates clear, definite opinions upon the topics of the day. The enlargement of his sphere of activity by his appointment as warden was a just recognition of his service in public life. To the position he has carried the same degree of energy and the same progressive spirit that characterized him in the halls of congress, and it may with safety be predicted that his record as warden will equal or surpass his record as a congressman and legislator.

His devotion to the Republican party is a trait which he inherits from his father, Hon. William P. Murphy, who came from Tennessee to Illinois in 1830, and settled at Sparta, opening an office for the practice of law and continuing in the profession for years. Both at the bar and on the bench he won an honorable name. He filled the offices of county judge and judge of the court of common pleas, in both of which he showed impartiality, broad knowledge of jurisprudence and logical reasoning faculties. He gave to religious work considerable time and effort, being active in the Methodist Church, and for a quarter of a century he was Sunday-school superintendent. He remained active in professional and public affairs until his death in 1884. Of the nine children born to his marriage with Miss Mary J. Fresh, Everett J. was third in order of birth. He was born July 24, 1852. His education was received in the grammar and high schools of Sparta. From the age of twelve to twenty-three he was employed in mercantile pursuits, meantime studying at night with the intention of en-



tering upon the practice of law. His first public office was that of deputy circuit clerk of Randolph County and the first elective position he held was that of sheriff of the same county, to which he was chosen in 1882. Four years later he was elected to the Illinois legislature, where his service was creditable to himself and satisfactory to his constituents. In 1889 he was made warden of the southern penitentiary at Chester, and during the four years he remained there he gained a thorough knowledge of every detail connected with the work, thus becoming thoroughly qualified for the more responsible position he now holds. The twenty-first district elected him to congress in 1894, and there he was instrumental in the passing of various important bills. His appointment as a member of the board of pardons came to him from Governor Tanner in 1897, and the same governor, in July, 1899, appointed him warden at Joliet.

March 30, 1875, Mr. Murphy married Miss E. C. Wilson, by whom he has two children, Mary A. and William A. Mrs. Murphy is a daughter of Capt. Andrew Wilson, of Sparta, who was with A. D. Straight in the escape by tunnel from Libby prison during the Civil war, but was subsequently recaptured.

**J**OHAN KIRKHAM, the owner of a good farm in Lockport Township, was born in Nottinghamshire, England, August 12, 1832, a member of an old and honored family of that shire. When he was twelve years of age he went to a hotel as first turn boy. He attended night school, but is practically a self-educated man. He was fond of music, and, under the guidance of a competent instructor, he soon acquired a thorough knowledge of the violin, which he still plays and enjoys. At fifteen years of age he began to learn engine-building and was apprenticed for six years to Clayton & Shuttleworth, of Lincoln, under whom he gained familiarity with the business. It was his desire to seek a home and

fortune in the new world, but his parents strongly opposed him in his wish. However, he determined to cross the ocean in spite of their protests, and so he told his father to give his share in the family estate to an invalid sister. From that day he never asked his father for any aid, but was able to make his way in the world for himself. With a good letter of recommendation from the firm he had been with several years and with just enough money to pay his way to America, he set sail from Liverpool August 12, 1856. After a voyage of six weeks and two days he landed in New York September 24 and debarked from the four-masted sailing vessel "City of Mobile," in which he had made the voyage. From New York he went to Dunkirk, in the same state, and there was ill for several weeks. As soon as he was able to travel he started for the west. November 7, of the same year, he landed in Lockport, with only three cents in his pockets. He accepted the first work he could get, for which he was paid \$10 a month. In the spring he secured employment which paid him \$200 a year, without board. His next work was the building of six hundred rods of fence, and he also engaged in haying during the season. Later he went into the woods and cut cord wood, for which he was paid fifty cents a cord. Going from Will to Grundy County, he worked for \$14 a month, continuing there for two years. From 1861 to 1862 he was foreman of a farm of twelve hundred acres. He then bought a team and rented a farm in Dupage Township, Will County. After a year he removed to another farm, which he rented for three years, later buying it for \$40 an acre. The place comprised eighty-five acres and was fairly well improved. After six years he rented the land and moved to Lockport, in order that his children might attend the school there. Meantime, for three years he ran an engine in the Romeo warehouse. On selling his farm he bought one hundred and twenty acres, which he has since owned and cultivated, and which is said to be one of the best farms in Lockport Township.

Before leaving England Mr. Kirkham was married, in May, 1856, to Miss Mary Naylor, an estimable lady and a consistent member of the

Methodist Episcopal Church. She died April 3, 1898, leaving two children, namely: William Henry, a farmer in this county; and Allie Louisa, wife of Edson E. Harder, who rents his father-in-law's farm.

In political views Mr. Kirkham is liberal and independent, voting for the man rather than the party. Interested in good roads and in good schools, he has done excellent service for the district while filling the offices of pathmaster and school director. A believer in Christianity and in sympathy with Christian work, he has assisted religious enterprises as he has been able. Although he started in this county wholly without means, he has worked his way to a position of independence which will permit him to spend his declining years in retirement from active cares, enjoying the rest he has so truly earned and richly deserved.

ALEXANDER GROSS, who resides in the suburbs of Joliet, is engaged in business as a contractor of stone sidewalks and curbing. He was born in Kadelburg, Baden, Germany, January 26, 1834, and was the son of Casper and Anna (Zuber) Gross, natives of the same place. His father carried on a small farm and at the same time operated a stone quarry, continuing the two occupations until his death, at sixty-four years. His wife, who was a daughter of Jacob Zuber, a farmer, died when sixty-seven years old. They were the parents of eight children, four of whom survive, viz.: Alexander; Mrs. Mary Overman, of Chicago; John, a stone-cutter in Joliet; and Caroline, who lives in Pike County, Ill.

In common with the German custom, our subject left school when fourteen years of age and began to learn a trade. Having become interested in the stone business he decided to learn the trade of a stone-cutter. This he learned thoroughly and followed in his native land until he came to America in 1854. He sailed from Havre on the sailing vessel "Mammoth," which anchored in New York after a voyage of fifty-four days. From there he traveled to Chicago, where

he secured employment at his trade. In September, 1857, he came from Chicago to Joliet, and worked at his trade in the building of the state penitentiary, being one of the first stone-cutters employed in that work. He was appointed foreman of the stone department in the prison in the summer of 1858, a responsible position which he held for twenty-three years. From the time the first convicts were brought to the penitentiary he taught them the trade, and he had many interesting experiences in attempting to transform lawyers, doctors, tailors, etc., into stone-cutters; but with few exceptions they were able to succeed at the trade. He found that as a class the sailors made the best workmen.

Resigning the charge of the department in 1881, Mr. Gross started a quarry of his own with James Bruce & Co., and continued in that until 1887, when he sold out. The next year he bought an interest with M. Krakar in the Krakar Stone Company, of which he was secretary and treasurer, at the same time acting as superintendent of the company's quarries on North Broadway and East Maple street. He was a partner in the firm for six years, after which the business was sold to the Joliet Limestone Company, and he continued with them for two years as foreman. Since then he has contracted for stone sidewalks and curbing, a business for which his long experience in the stone trade admirably qualifies him. He owns a neat residence on North Broadway, surrounded by seventeen acres of grounds, well laid out and rendered attractive by the presence of shade trees. He is a member of the Saengerbund, the Joliet Sharpshooters' Association, the Turner Society and Mount Joliet Lodge No. 42, A. F. & A. M. In politics he favors Republican principles.

The marriage of Mr. Gross took place in Joliet and united him with Miss Margaret Uebel, who was born in Prussia. They have four children living, namely: Laura, who is the wife of John Servis, of Joliet; Rosetta; Albertina, who is a graduate of the Illinois State University at Champaign; and Theodore, a graduate of the Joliet high school, and now foreman for Bruce Bros., of this city.







Geo B. Sullivan

## COL. JOHN BARNARD FITHIAN.

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**COL. JOHN BARNARD FITHIAN.** The position which Colonel Fithian has held in public and professional affairs since he came to Joliet in 1873 entitles him to rank among the leading men of the city. He was born in Livingston County, N. Y., October 26, 1849, and was third in a family of five, his brothers and sisters being: W. W., who served in the Sixteenth Kansas Cavalry during the Civil war, but is now a resident of Joliet; Edward C., of Minnesota; Frances C., who resides in California; and Mrs. Lillian C. Lewis, of New York City. His father, Rev. William Fithian, a native of New Jersey, entered the ministry of the Presbyterian Church, remaining in the east until 1857, when he settled in northwestern Iowa. In the fall of 1860 he accepted a pastorate in Quincy, Ill. During the Civil war he entered the Union army and was assigned to the charge of the sanitary department, afterward making his headquarters in St. Louis. In later years he gave his time mostly to lecturing, which work took him to the principal cities of the United States. He died of cholera in 1874. His wife, who was a daughter of Dr. Clark, of Dansville, N. Y., died in 1858.

The schooling of Colonel Fithian was limited to a few years, as since he was twelve he has been dependent upon his own efforts for the acquirement of knowledge. In 1869 he secured employment in newspaper work in Carlinville, later was reporter on the *Jacksonville Journal* staff, next went to Belleville and from there to Litchfield. In February, 1873, he came to Joliet, where he was employed in connection with the penitentiary, and at the same time studied law.

In 1875 he assisted in organizing the militia, in which he was successively promoted from lower to higher offices, and at the time of his resignation in 1883 held the office of colonel of the Fourth Illinois Regiment. September 15, 1876, he was admitted to the bar, at which time he discontinued his other work and turned his attention to the building up of a general practice. In this he was successful, becoming known as a safe counselor and able attorney. He has since devoted himself to the law, from the practice of which he has acquired a neat income as well as an excellent reputation.

Politics engages Colonel Fithian's attention to the extent that it deserves of every public-spirited citizen. He is a stanch Republican, a believer in all of the party principles, but not an active politician. At this writing he is supervisor of the sixth district of Illinois for the census of 1900, his district comprising the counties of Will, Kankakee, Iroquois and Vermilion. In January, 1878, he married Edna C., daughter of Captain Whitaker, of Carlinville, Ill.; they have one child now living, Lillian Clare.

The connection of Colonel Fithian with the Masonic order dates from 1875, when he was initiated into the blue lodge and took the first degree of Masonry. He has since been an interested worker in the fraternity. On the organization of the council at Joliet he was one of its charter members. He has officiated as master for six years. In October, 1893, he was appointed district deputy grand master, to which position he has since been reappointed each year. For three years he was commander of the Com-

mandery and at this writing is the principal conductor of the work of the Grand Council, R. & S. M., of Illinois. He is connected with the Masonic Veterans' Association of Illinois.

**A**LBERT J. BATES. Not only in Joliet, but throughout this and other states, Mr. Bates is known through the medium of his inventions. There are few who possess greater inventive ability than he. This talent was shown even in his early boyhood. When twelve years of age, although he had never seen a scroll saw, he constructed one which was operated by foot power; the steel of a hoop skirt was used for the saw blades by filing teeth in it, and the machine operated successfully. Three years later, long before the days of bicycles in southwestern Missouri, he made of wood a two-wheeled machine with a front wheel of forty-four inches, which did him service for some years; he had never seen a wheel of any kind and was guided in his work solely by the pictures in catalogues. The greater number of the machines manufactured by the Bates Machine Company, of which he is a stockholder and director, were made and perfected by him, and, of varying uses and qualities, illustrate the versatility of his inventive faculties.

The ancestry of the Bates family appears in the sketch of William O. Bates, presented on another page. The subject of this sketch was born, of Canadian parentage, in Washington, Iowa, in 1863. When five years of age he accompanied his parents to Carthage, Mo., where he attended school. Naturally gifted in mechanics, his activities were early turned in that direction. For a year he worked in a machine shop at Carthage and for eight months in a shop at Springfield, Mo. He then went to St. Louis, where he held a position as scroll sawyer for three months and later was an employe in a steam pump factory. In 1882 he went to Chicago, where he was employed for two years in machine shops. While there he built machines for making check wire

for a Joliet firm, by whom he was offered a position as foreman of their machine department. Coming to Joliet, in a few months he was also made superintendent of their barb wire department. Meantime he made several machines for special uses. However, the remuneration not being in proportion to his work, he resigned as foreman, and engaged in designing and building on contract machines for manufacturing wire.

With his brother organizing the firm of Bates Brothers, Mr. Bates started a machine shop in the fall of 1885. The firm engaged in the manufacture of wire mill machinery and also carried on general machine work. The plant burned down and was rebuilt on a different site. In 1888 the Bates Machine Company, which has since developed into one of the most important industries of Joliet, was incorporated. Of this Mr. Bates was secretary and treasurer from the time of the incorporation until September, 1895, but his outside business gradually took an increasing amount of his time and thought, and obliged him to resign as an officer of the company, although he still continues to hold stock and is a member of the directorate. The company pays high wages and employs only skilled labor. The plant runs during the entire year and the products comprise all kinds of wire mill machinery, including engines of two thousand horse-power, some of which are shipped to the gold mines of South Africa. There is scarcely any part of the world to which the engines have not gone, and in every place their value is immediately recognized by those most competent to judge.

As mechanical engineer and a large stockholder, Mr. Bates is now identified with the American Steel and Wire Company. He is president and the principal owner of the Joliet Pure Ice Company, which carries on a large wholesale and retail business, and owns a plant having a daily capacity of forty tons; the most of the machinery used in connection with the plant was manufactured by Mr. Bates. He holds stock in the American Tin Plate Company, is extensively interested in lead and zinc mines at Galena, Kans., and is president and the principal owner



of the Bates-Cotter Company. His attention is principally given to the designing of machinery for wire mills. He is the inventor of the Bates woven wire fence machine, which manufactures two designs of fence, and which was the first ever used in the mills of the American Steel and Wire Company. Through his efforts the machinery was simplified so that the manufacture can be carried on at about one-tenth the cost of any other machine. Over ninety per cent. of all the barb wire made in the world is manufactured on his machines, and his designs for the manufacture of woven wire are the latest and best developed.

So deeply has Mr. Bates been engrossed in the designing and manufacture of his various inventions that he has had no leisure for public affairs and politics, in which, aside from voting the Republican ticket, he takes no part whatever. He is a member of the Union Club of Joliet. His beautiful home, at No. 600 Western avenue, is presided over by his accomplished wife, formerly Ellen Amos, a native of England, and in girlhood a resident of Colorado. She is identified with the Presbyterian Church and holds a prominent place in the most select social circles of Joliet. Mr. and Mrs. Bates have four children: Pearl, Walter, Richard and Albert J., Jr.

to every part of the globe. The works are located in the east part of Joliet and cover six acres, connected with the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, and through it with the Santa Fe, Michigan Central, Alton, and Elgin, Joliet & Eastern roads, by means of which facilities for shipping are furnished that are unequaled in the entire west.

Born in Hamilton, Canada, July 15, 1860, the subject of this article is a son of Joshua and Mary (Oswald) Bates, natives respectively of Hamilton and Brantford, Canada. His grandfather Bates was of English descent, while the other grandfather, James Oswald, a farmer in Canada, traced his ancestry to Scotland. For some years Joshua Bates was employed at pattern-making and railroad-building in Canada. In 1863 he removed to Washington, Iowa, where he engaged in contracting and building. Four years later he settled in Carthage, Mo., where he became well known as a contractor. In 1886 he joined his sons in Joliet and assisted them in their factory as a pattern-maker. He died in this city February 10, 1899, when sixty-nine years of age. His wife died in Carthage, Mo. They were the parents of two daughters (both now in Los Angeles, Cal.), and four sons, of whom three are living, all in Joliet.

At the time the family settled in Iowa W. O. Bates was three years of age, and four years later he accompanied his parents to Carthage, Mo., where he studied in the public and high schools. In 1875 he was apprenticed to the machinist's trade in Carthage. For three years he continued as an apprentice, after which he was made foreman in the same shop. Resigning in 1882, he sought a larger field for work, and for three years he was connected with various large shops in Chicago. In 1885 he came to Joliet and assisted in forming the firm of Bates Brothers, which equipped a shop near the center of town and began to manufacture wire-working machinery. On the dissolution of the partnership he became superintendent of the Bates Machine Company, of which, since 1895, he has been treasurer and general manager. His time has been so closely given to business matters that he has never

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**W**ILLIAM O. BATES, treasurer and general manager of the Bates Machine Company, was actively connected with the organization and incorporation of this concern in 1888, and, as superintendent, had charge of the building of the foundry and shop. The gradual increase of the business to the present large aggregate of products is due, in no small extent, to his ability and judicious oversight, in conjunction with the work of the other officers of the company. Employment is given to two hundred skilled laborers, who are engaged in the manufacture of the company's patents. The output has increased from \$35,000 to \$250,000 at the present writing, and the products are shipped

mingled with others in the conduct of political affairs, although he is well informed concerning politics and adheres to Republican principles. Socially he is connected with the Union Club. While in Chicago he married Miss Mary Clarey, who was born in Brantford, Canada, and by whom he has three sons, Harry J., Elbert J. and W. Oswald.

One of the most widely known products of the Bates Machine Company's works is the Bates-Corliss engine, which embraces in its construction all that is superior in the original Corliss type, together with many new and important features, which give increased efficiency with a lesser degree of complication. From the foundry to the erecting room the best skill is used in its manufacture, so that the finished product is unexcelled for accuracy of construction and perfect workmanship. Its main attributes are strength, utility, form and durability, all of which are promoted by the original style of valve trips used. In 1895 the Franklin Institute recommended the award of the John Scott legacy medal and premium to Albert J. Bates for his invention of these valve trips. Awards were also received from the judges of engines in the World's Columbian Exposition. The engines are used in every part of the world and have given universal satisfaction wherever introduced. A number of vertical condensing engines have been purchased by the Pullman Palace Car Company and other well-known concerns in Chicago. While the bulk of the engines remain in the United States, some have been shipped to other countries. Three steam jacketed cylinder pumping engines were built for the New

Heidelberg Roodeport Gold Mining Company at Johannesburg, S. A. R.; two cross compound condensing and one steam jacketed cylinder for the Vesta Gold Mining Company, in the same place, and one engine for the New Rand mines there, while other companies in the same town have purchased engines of various kinds. Shipments have been made to Japan, Mexico and other countries.

In the field of wire machinery the Bates Machine Company are pioneers. It is due in no small measure to their efforts that, during the past fifteen years, from an output of five hundred pounds of 8d nails per ten hours the production has increased to three thousand pounds of 8d nails in the same time. The Bates wire nail machine is designed in such a manner as to make it serviceable in the highest degree, and is constructed so as to make either one or two nails at each revolution. The wire nail barbing machine will barb all sizes of nail wire from No. 16 to No. 2 rod, and is equipped with steel shaftings, cut gears and bearings bushed with bronze. Among other machines manufactured are the wire nail rumbler for tumbling and cleaning wire nails and screws, a combination two and four point barbing machine, a plain wire twisting machine, wire staple machine, wire drawing frame and blocks, power wire and hand wire pointing machines, die plate hammering machines, wire baker, wire muffle, wire mill buggy, wire annealing furnace and steam crane, and galvanizing reel and wiper; also the Cookson Improved feed water heater, purifier, filter and oil separator, which is said to be one of the finest heaters in the world.







*Jacob F. Lutz*

## HON. JACOB F. LOTZ.

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**H**ON. JACOB F. LOTZ. It is always a proof of ability and faithfulness when a man remains with the same firm for a long period of years, discharging responsible duties in an intelligent and praiseworthy manner. Such is the record of the subject of this sketch, who came to Lockport July 20, 1858, as head miller for Norton & Co., and continued in that capacity and as superintendent until January, 1899, a period of more than forty years. Finally failing health rendered it advisable for him to sever his connection with the company and he retired to private life. He has been active in local matters, and was elected the first mayor of Lockport, holding the office for two terms. At another time he served as president of the board of trustees of Lockport. For fifteen years he was a member of the school board and during much of that time served as its president; during his connection with the board the high school and other buildings were erected. In politics he has always been a Democrat. Fraternally he is identified with Lockport Lodge No. 538, A. F. & A. M., of which he is chaplain; and is also a member of Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T. With his family he attends the Methodist Episcopal Church, and at the time of the erection of the house of worship he served on the building committee.

Near Altoona, Blair County, Pa., our subject was born May 18, 1824, a son of Jacob and Catherine (Troxell) Lotz, natives respectively of Germany and Cambria County, Pa. His father, after having learned the miller's trade and served in the German army, came to the United States and settled in what is now Huntingdon County, Pa. When his son was eighteen months old he

was accidentally killed by a tree falling upon him in a storm. His wife, who died in Blair County, was the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier, a member of Washington's body guard. By her first husband, Mr. Robinson, she had two children, both now deceased. Of her second marriage six children were born, two of whom are living, John Lotz, of Huntingdon County, Pa., and our subject.

When Mr. Lotz was nine years of age he was orphaned by his mother's death. He was then taken into a farmer's home, with the understanding that he would be permitted to attend school winters, but instead, he was obliged to work both summer and winter. At eighteen years of age, having determined to obtain an education, he made arrangements for working for his board, with the privilege of studying. This he did, and in a measure made up for his lack of earlier opportunities. Afterward he worked in a mill at \$6 per month, remaining there for several years. After his marriage, in 1848, he rented a mill, which he operated for three years. In 1854 he came west to Illinois; finding business dull in Lockport, he went to Dixon, where he worked for three years or more, but was unfortunate in losing \$1,000 that he had saved. From Dixon he returned to Lockport, and has since made his home here. During the Civil war he was drafted in the army, but was rejected on a physician's examination, owing to physical disability.

The first wife of Mr. Lotz was Elizabeth Ramsey, who died in Lockport, January 25, 1867, leaving three daughters: Keturah, Mary and Ida. His second marriage was to Miss Lucy Ramsey, of Lockport, by whom he has four sons and one daughter, namely: Henry, a graduate of the

Philadelphia Dental College, and now engaged in practice in Lockport; George, who is with the Adams Express Company, in Chicago; Louis, who is bookkeeper for a Lockport firm; John, a student in the Illinois University; and Ella, at home.

**N**ELSON D. ELWOOD, deceased, who was one of this county's honored pioneers, was born in Otsego County, N. Y., in 1818, a son of Daniel Elwood and a nephew of Isaac L. Elwood, at one time secretary of the Western Union Telegraph Company. He represented the fourth generation in America, the family having been founded in this country by a native of Essex County, England, who settled on the Hudson River. When eight years of age he was left an orphan, and seven years later he secured a position as clerk in Lockport, N. Y. In 1837 he came to Lockport, Ill., securing employment as an engineer on the Illinois and Michigan canal, at which he worked in the summers, while he taught during the winters. On his election as county clerk, in 1843, he came to Joliet, and while filling that position he studied law and was admitted to the bar. At the expiration of his term as clerk he formed a partnership with his wife's brother, Judge Parks, under the firm name of Parks & Elwood, and afterwards he managed the real-estate business of the firm, while his partner had charge of law matters. At the organization of the Chicago & Rock Island Railroad Company he was made the company's secretary, and also served as a director until the road was completed into Iowa. Governor Joel A. Matteson was the originator of the road, which was opened to Joliet in 1852. Afterward Governor Matteson and Mr. Elwood built a part of the Chicago & Mississippi Railroad from Joliet to Alton, and this road, under its subsequent name of Chicago & Alton, has since become one of the most successful in the state. In 1856 Governor Matteson and Mr. Elwood built the Joliet & Northern Indiana Railroad, which connects Joliet

with the Michigan Central Railroad at Lake Station, Ind., and in 1859 the latter road purchased the branch. Until 1859 the Chicago & Alton ran to Chicago on the Rock Island tracks, but in that year its roadbed was extended, and the road was known as the Joliet & Chicago Railroad.

In 1848 Mr. Elwood was secretary of the state senate. Although he was a strong Democrat, he was in 1861 re-appointed by Governor Yates, a Republican, as one of the penitentiary commissioners chosen to locate the state penitentiary. He retained the position until his death, which occurred February 24, 1861. For years he was a member of the vestry of Christ's Episcopal Church. While he was identified with the Odd Fellows his most active work, fraternally, was with the Masons. He was grand high priest of the grand chapter of Illinois, and at the time of his death deputy grand commander of the grand commandery of Illinois, an officer in the grand lodge and a thirty-third degree Mason.

Mr. Elwood took an active interest in all educational work, and for many years was a member of the board of school inspectors of Joliet. For two terms he held the office of mayor, and for three terms served as an alderman. He was, beyond all question, one of the most active, progressive and public-spirited citizens of Joliet of his day. He filled positions of public and private trust with exacting fidelity. His handiwork may be found in and around Joliet to this day. He erected the first business house on Jefferson street, it being located where the present post-office building stands. In that same frame structure were for a time the offices of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company, and there the building of that road was planned.

Although but forty-two years of age at the time of his death, Mr. Elwood left behind him a memory that will endure through future years. The affectionate remembrance in which his name is held by all the older members of the Masonic fraternities is one of the rare evidences of deep and lasting love.

The marriage of Mr. Elwood united him with Miss Juliet L. Parks, of Lockport, N. Y. She



survived him almost forty years, passing away May 6, 1900, in Chicago, and was buried in Joliet. Her father, Joel M. Parks, was postmaster and a merchant of Lockport, N. Y., and in 1837 settled in Lockport, Ill., where he also engaged in the mercantile business and served as postmaster. Later he removed to Joliet, where he died. His wife was a sister of William Gooding, chief engineer of the Illinois and Michigan canal.

The esteem in which Mrs. Juliet L. Elwood was held in Joliet was shown by the following, which is a portion of an article published in a local paper at the time of her death:

"One of our noblest women passed away Saturday night when the soul of Mrs. Juliet L. Elwood winged its flight to its eternal home. Everybody in Will County and Joliet knew and loved her, and all alike mourn her death.

"Mrs. Elwood was born in Bristol, Ontario County, N. Y., September 16, 1819. She was married to Nelson D. Elwood in Lockport, N. Y., February 13, 1837, and shortly after moved to Lockport, Will County, Ill. Some time after the death of Mr. Elwood she moved to Chicago, where she died on the 6th, at 2979 Prairie avenue.

"She was one of the grandest of wives and mothers. All loved her for her high character, loving ways and pure womanly traits.

"The funeral occurred from Christ Episcopal Church this afternoon at three o'clock to Oakwood. The tears and flowers and heartfelt sighs of the mourning relatives and friends and the mute grief shown by the old-time friends and neighbors told more eloquently than the grandest sermon could of the deep and lasting love for the deceased, whose memory will ever be cherished and revered."

education in public and private schools primarily, after which he attended the Collegiate and Commercial Military School in New Haven, Conn., remaining there until the completion of the course in 1857. While there he served as first sergeant for three months and later held the rank of captain. The choice of a university course at Yale or study abroad was given him, and he chose the latter, going to Geneva, Switzerland, where he was under a tutor for a year. Next he matriculated in Frederick William University at Berlin, where he completed the first year's studies. While there his only living brother passed away and left him the sole survivor of six sons. For this reason his parents deemed it best for him to return to them, and the following year he spent in his father's office. After completing the course in Bryant & Stratton's Business College he returned to the office of Parks & Elwood, and continued there until his mother gave her consent for his enlistment in the volunteer army in July, 1862.

Organizing Company B, of the One Hundredth Illinois Infantry, he was commissioned its captain by Governor Yates, and went at once to the front. After the battle of Perryville he accompanied General Rosecrans and took part in the five days' fight at Murfreesboro. During that battle he was honored by being made acting assistant adjutant-general of the First Brigade, First Division, Twenty-first Corps, being appointed on the field by Gen. George T. Buell. His brigade, which was in Wood's division, received an order to move by the left flank in the battle of Chickamauga. It obeyed the order with fourteen hundred and fifty men and lost six hundred and forty-eight men in its heroic effort to hold its position. While in Chattanooga, Mrs. Elwood wrote so strong an appeal for her son's return home that General Rosecrans decided her request should be granted. The young officer therefore resigned in November, 1863, and returned home.

In 1866 Mr. Elwood became a broker on the Chicago board of trade. Soon afterward he entered the milling business at Matteson, Ill., but in 1870 returned to Joliet, where he has since carried on a real-estate business. With ex-Mayor

**H**ON. JAMES G. ELWOOD, postmaster of Joliet and one of the city's most influential citizens, was brought to this place by his parents in 1843, when four years of age. He was born in Lockport, this county, and received his

Paige, in 1880, he built the Telephone Exchange, the first telephone in Joliet, and this the two conducted for three years, and then sold out to the Chicago Telephone Company, Mr. Elwood remaining as manager for four more years. His next business enterprise was as treasurer, general manager and a director of the water works company, with which he continued for four years, until the plant was purchased by the city. From 1888 to 1896 he was manager of the Joliet Gas Company, with which he was connected from 1861 and of which he was secretary for twenty years. With Judge Parks, in 1877, he erected the First National Bank building. He is a director in the Will County National Bank and has an interest in many other local enterprises of importance. In 1862 he was made a director of Oakwood cemetery, of which he has been superintendent since 1871.

When Mr. Elwood entered the army he was a Douglas Democrat, but soon after the war he became a Republican and has been staunch in his allegiance to this party ever since. From 1872 to 1874 he was alderman from his ward. In 1877 he was elected mayor, being the first to hold the office under the present charter. As chairman of the board of county supervisors for two years he proved an efficient worker for the benefit of the people, not only devoting his salary to the benefit of the public work, but making personal contributions besides. From 1892 to 1894 he was superintendent of the poor, this being the time of the panic, when work was scarce and many worthy people were in dire straits. During that time he had charge of feeding and helping forty-four hundred and fifty persons, and much of his time was given to this work. July 11, 1898, he was appointed postmaster of Joliet, and has since served with efficiency in the office.

In Chicago, in 1868, Mr. Elwood married Miss Margaret Pearce, who was born in Seneca County, N. Y. Her father, William L. Pearce, came to Chicago in 1852 and opened the Matteson house, corner of Randolph and Dearborn streets. He died in Chicago. His brother is now proprietor of the Sherman house in that city. Mr. and Mrs. Elwood are the parents of four children.

Ward Pearce Elwood, the oldest, was educated in Faribault, Minn., and Chicago Manual Training school, and is now engaged in the plumbing business in Joliet. William Nelson Elwood is treasurer and secretary of the Nashville Chair and Carriage Company, of Nashville, Tenn.; this company both father and son helped to organize and it has the most complete and modern plant of its kind in the United States. The older daughter, Louise Maynette, was educated in Lasell Seminary at Auburndale, Mass., and the younger, Elsie Parks, graduated with honors from the Joliet high and training schools. The family spend the winters in Joliet and during the summer occupy their country home, "Elwood Terrace," on the St. Clair River, in Michigan.

Fraternally Mr. Elwood is connected with Matteson Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; Joliet Chapter, R. A. M., in which he is past high priest; Joliet Council; Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T., in which he has been commander five terms; and in 1884 he was grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Illinois. For twelve years he was the representative of the grand commandery of New York in the commandery of this state. He is a member of the Illinois Commandery of Loyal Legion and Bartleson Post No. 6, G. A. R., of Joliet. For many years he was a vestryman and warden in Christ's Episcopal Church and took an active part in the management of the finances of the church, also aided actively in the erection of the church building.

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REV. SAMUEL HEWES. Far and near this gentleman is known for his successful and self-sacrificing labors in the cause of Christ. Early entering the ministry, his entire active life was devoted to the winning of souls for Christ and the uplifting of humanity. Under his labors, both in regular pastorates and in evangelistic meetings, thousands have been converted, and these sixty years have been very fruitful of results. Even now, though with him life's brief



day has reached its serene twilight, he still labors as his strength permits, preaching occasionally and in other ways promoting the welfare of the church.

The record of the Hewes family is presented in the sketch of our subject's brother, Daniel S., also of Crete. Samuel was born in Shaftsbury, Vt., August 18, 1814, and was the eldest son of twelve children. When he was quite young the family removed to Chittenden County, Vt. He was a mere boy when he began to work, giving his wages to his father to assist in the support of the family. When the family started west in 1835 he had just been converted, and, feeling a call to the ministry, he desired a better education than he could secure in Illinois. Hence he resolved to remain in Vermont. Working during vacations he obtained the means to pursue academic studies in Bennington. Later he studied and also was a teacher for two years in West Poultney Seminary. While teaching in Chittenden County in 1839 he received a license to preach and filled the pulpit on the night the license was given him. For two years he taught week days and preached on Sundays. During that time he held a very successful revival. After his marriage he joined the conference. In 1857 he moved to Troy, N. Y., which at that time was noted for its wickedness. During the two years he remained in that city he had more than three hundred converts. Before this he made two hundred conversions in the suburbs and preached at three different places each Sunday.

In spite of the fact that he was offered the leading church in Troy if he would remain there, Mr. Hewes determined to come to Illinois, where he had purchased one hundred acres of government land in 1846 and where his relatives resided. In 1859 he settled in Will County. Immediately joining the western conference, he was appointed pastor of the Crete congregation. Besides preaching here, on alternate Sundays he preached at Monee, seven miles from Crete, and Thornton, ten miles distant, where he held Sunday afternoon services and also had three appointments during the week. For two years he continued in that manner, after which he was stationed at Arlington

Heights, Palatine and other places for two years, at Wheaton for a year and at Frankfort Station for two years, at the same time supplying other pulpits. Failing health then obliged him to temporarily give up his ministerial work. He bought the old homestead from his mother, and this, with his own land, made him owner of three hundred and sixty acres in Crete Township. Six years of outdoor exercise and farm work restored his health and he resumed his ministerial work. His next appointments were as follows: McHenry, Ill., two years; Crystal Lake Crossing one year; Downer's Grove, two years; Courtland, two years; Kaneville, three years; and Erie, one year. On reaching the age of seventy years he retired from regular pastoral work, although he was offered by the Erie congregation a large salary if he would remain. On retiring he established his home in Crete Village, where he has since resided.

It would be impossible to estimate the good accomplished by such a life as that of Mr. Hewes, for kind deeds and Christian service cannot be tabulated in statistics. But, though unchronicled on earth, He who said, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye did it unto me," will not pass them by unrewarded. Now as he looks back over his eighty-six years he can do so without regret or remorse, and can look forward to the future with the Christian's bright hope of eternal happiness.

At Grand Island, Vt., December 24, 1840, Mr. Hewes married Miss Phœbe Phelps, who was born in Vermont and is still living, at eighty-two years. She has been an active worker in the church and a faithful, efficient helpmate to her husband, whose devoted wife she has been for sixty years. Of their nine children two daughters alone survive. The eldest of these is a noted evangelist, having inherited her father's gift of preaching. She has been in evangelistic work for twenty years, mainly in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Indiana, and also spent four years in Ireland, where she gained more converts to the church than any evangelist had secured for years. Besides this, she is an excellent writer on religious subjects. She is the wife of Rev. Joseph



Caldwell, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Frankfort, this county. The second daughter, Mary H., deceased, married Rev. Samuel Earney, who has held pastorates at Dixon, Plainfield, Elgin, Morris, Aurora and other places, and is now one of the well-known Methodist Episcopal ministers of Chicago. The third daughter, Helen H., is the wife of G. W. Willard, M. D., of Chicago; and the youngest daughter, Franc, now deceased, married Charles Blim, M. D., of Crete.

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**A**LBERT T. RANDALL, supervisor of Channahon Township and a well-known merchant of Channahon, was born in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, June 7, 1837, a son of John T. and Beulah S. (Russell) Randall. He was one of a family of six, four now living, those besides himself being Gersham A., who is with the Brewster Manufacturing Company in Beatrice, Neb.; Laura A., who is the wife of Albert Wilburn, a business man of Blackford, Kans.; and Mary, who married Charles A. Warren, an attorney of Chicago. His father, who was a native of Orleans County, Vt., born August 2, 1815, accompanied his parents to Orleans County, N. Y., when he was ten years of age, and there he grew to manhood. His school advantages were very limited, but later, through broad reading, he became a well-informed man. In early manhood he went to Cuyahoga County, Ohio, where he worked on his uncle's farm. There he met and married Miss Russell. After the birth of two children he and his wife removed to Orleans County, N. Y., and there resided until 1849.

During the latter year John T. Randall brought his family to Illinois. After a few months in Joliet he settled in Troy Township, on the Du Page River, where he purchased two hundred and five acres of canal land. Some years were spent on that place. However, in 1855, on account of the poor school facilities in that locality, he disposed of his farm and removed to the village of Channahon. Four years later he settled on a

farm two miles east of town and there he remained until his death, November 30, 1882. In early life he was an ardent Democrat, but later became independent in politics. During the years 1863, 1864 and 1865 he represented Channahon Township on the board of supervisors, and in 1853 and 1854 he represented Troy Township on the board. He also served as assessor of Channahon Township a number of times and held the office of highway commissioner. He was one of the county's most highly esteemed men.

The grandfather of our subject, Nehemiah Randall, was born at Northampton, Mass., in 1784. When a young man he moved to Vermont and there married. In 1825 he removed to Orleans County, N. Y., and there made his home for twenty years, going in 1845 to Lorain County, Ohio, where he died one year later. He was a type of the industrious pioneer farmers, to whom the present generation owes so large a debt of gratitude. His father, Gersham Randall, was a native of Scituate, Mass., and served in the Revolutionary war; one of his brothers was killed at Braddock's defeat during the French and Indian war in 1755. The first of the Randall family in America came from England about 1640 and settled in the town of Scituate. The wife of Nehemiah Randall bore the maiden name of Sally St. Clair; her father, James St. Clair, a native of Vermont, served in the Revolutionary war and the war of 1812.

The mother of our subject was a daughter of Joseph and Miriam (Morgan) Russell, natives of Massachusetts. Two of the Morgan family served in the Revolutionary war, one being in the navy, the other in the army. Joseph Russell was a teamster in the war of 1812 and his father rendered patriotic service to the colonial cause during the first struggle with England. The Russells descended from English forefathers, who emigrated to America between 1640 and 1660.

When a young man of twenty years our subject went to Wisconsin, where he remained for a time with an uncle on a farm, returning to Will County in the latter part of 1858. In March, 1859, he joined a party of Argonauts seeking

gold in the Pike's Peak region, and, arriving in Colorado, devoted some time to searching for gold. While he was there the Civil war broke out. September 9, 1861, he enlisted in Company H, First Colorado Infantry, which was made a cavalry regiment in November, 1862. He remained with it until his honorable discharge, December 14, 1865. Enlisting as a private he was soon made a corporal and later a sergeant. The important engagements in which he participated were those at Apache Canon, Pigeon ranch, Peralto, Cedar Canon and Sand Creek.

After being mustered out from the service Mr. Randall returned to Illinois and resumed farm work. During the summers of 1866 and 1867 he went to St. Joe, Mo., and worked in a packing house. From 1859 to 1861 he engaged in farm work in Will County, after which he spent three years as salesman in a store in Wilmington. On his return to Channahon he took charge of the old homestead, which he farmed until 1882. He then became a partner in a mercantile establishment in Channahon, but sold out the next year and returned to the homestead, where he remained until 1890. During that year he removed to the village, and here for three years he was connected with a mercantile store. In 1893 he established his present business, which he has successfully and efficiently conducted.

During Mr. Randall's service in the army he was a member of a party sent across the plains as escort to a band of chiefs in February, 1863, for the purpose of making a treaty between the Indians and the government. His company and Company D comprised the escort. He remained in camp at St. Joe, Mo., while the Indians went on to Washington, D. C. It was while at St. Joe that he was married, April 30, 1863, to Miss Anna Tollard, daughter of James and Rachael (Emery) Tollard, natives of England. She was born in Newark, N. J., shortly after her parents arrived in America. Later they removed to Columbiana County, Wis., and from that state to St. Joe, Mo., where they died. Three children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Randall, namely: Maud B., wife of Fred Weese, of Minooka, Grundy County, Ill.; John T., who is with

the Chicago Telephone Company; and Laura A., wife of Charles B. Chase, a machinist and brick manufacturer in Channahon.

In 1870 Mr. Randall was collector for Channahon Township. Since 1876 he has served as justice of the peace. In 1884 he was elected assessor and continued in the office for eight years. In April, 1899, he was chosen a member of the board of supervisors, which position he now ably fills. In politics he is of the Republican faith. He is connected with Channahon Lodge 262, A. F. & A. M.; Kalon Camp No. 4282, Modern Woodmen of America; and Burden Post No. 494, G. A. R.

THOMAS TAIT, who was long identified with the farm interests of Jackson Township, though now passed from earth, yet lives in the hearts and memories of his friends and neighbors. His character as a man is well known, but a brief recital of the incidents of his life may still more firmly establish the record of his honorable and useful career. He was born on the Shetland Islands, September 23, 1830, a son of Michael and Margaret (Leisk) Tait, of whose five children only two are living. The older son, John, is a farmer in Lane County, Ore., and the younger, Magnus, is living retired in Santa Clara County, Cal.

During the time of the religious persecutions in Scotland, the Leisk and Tait families fled from that country and took refuge in the Shetland Islands, where Michael Tait was born October 21, 1805, and Margaret Leisk January 16, 1803. Four of their children were born on the same islands. May 14, 1838, they started across the ocean to America, arriving at New York on the 28th of June, and on the 19th of July they reached Chicago. Ten years were spent in that then insignificant village. March 28, 1848, they arrived at Joliet. They settled on one hundred and twenty acres of land in Joliet Township,



three miles south of town. Mr. Tait was very fond of flowers and had so many plants on his place that it became known as Flower Hill. September 28, 1848, he took out a patent for the land. September 27, 1851, he made his final payment for the property, the purchase price for the one hundred and twenty acres being \$477. By trade he was a stone mason, but his preference was for farm pursuits. On first settling in Chicago he spent a short time with a brother there, and later became connected with a Mr. Barnett in stone contracting. For some years afterward he engaged in the building of the locks on the canal at Wellington, Canada, and the locks on this canal. After completing that work he settled down on the farm where he remained until his death, October 6, 1878. His wife spent the last eighteen months of her life with our subject and died in his home March 28, 1882. She and her husband were members of the First Baptist Church of Joliet and were active Christian workers.

When a boy our subject had no extended opportunities for acquiring an education, but he lost no chance to gain the knowledge he felt would be necessary to him in life. Farming duties early and late engrossed much of his time; hours of work were long and the labor often wearying, but books or newspapers that came in his way were eagerly read in order to gain the varied information and news from the outside world. Being a young man of frugal habits, he soon was in a position to buy a farm. He purchased eighty-five acres in Jackson Township from a Miss Cook, who later became the wife of Elder Solomon Knapp. Here he devoted himself to his chosen occupation, beginning in his new home the life that brought him happiness, honor and success. The land upon which he settled was almost unbroken prairie, but his energetic management soon yielded him good crops; and the improvements upon it were a monument to his skillful labor. Upon this place he made his home until his life work ended, May 3, 1896. During the last twenty years of his life he suffered from the effects of a sunstroke. On account of his poor health he and his wife spent much time

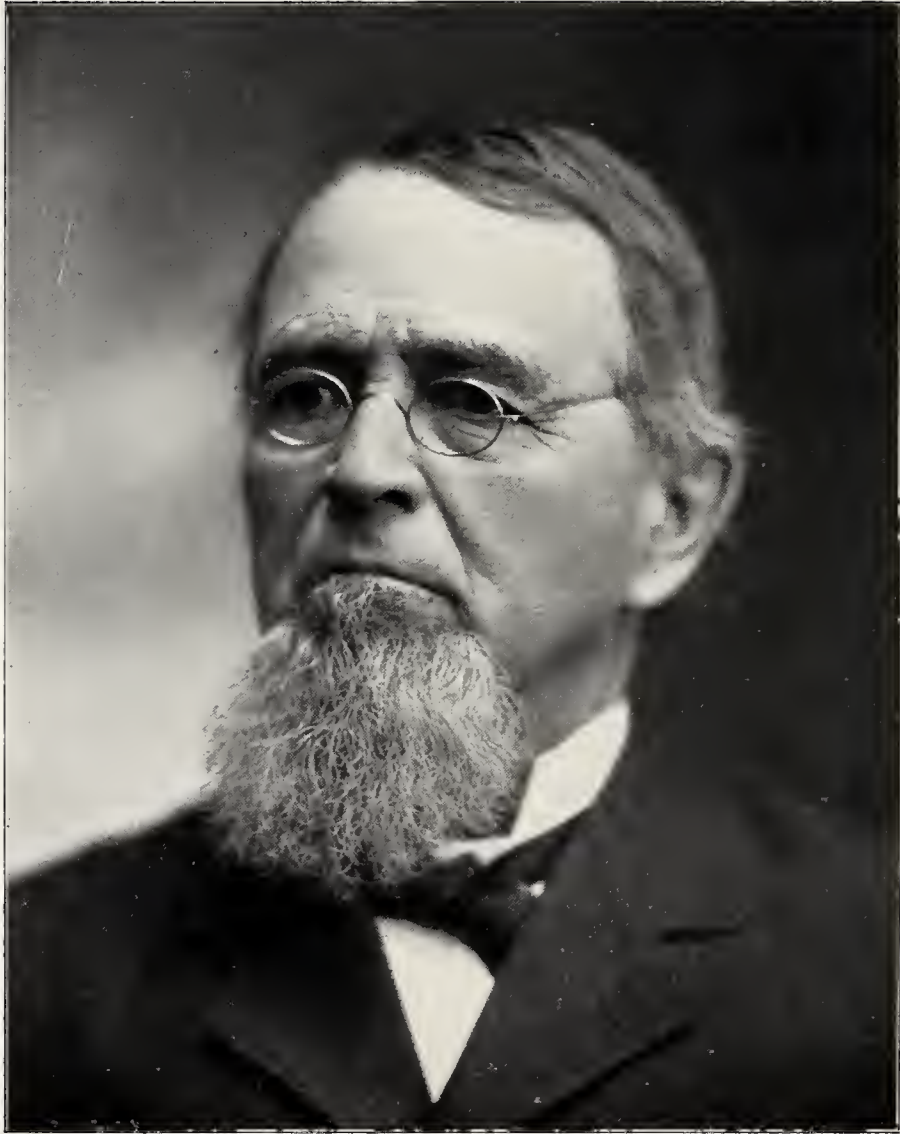
in travel, and in 1895 extended their travels as far as Alaska, visiting Sitka, Juneau and other points of interest. For years he was a member of the school board of his district, and his efforts proved helpful in promoting the condition of the school. At fourteen years of age he connected himself with the First Baptist Church of Joliet, with which he was afterward identified, and his wife has been a member of the same church for thirty years or more. In politics he was a Republican. He served as supervisor and collector of Jackson Township one term.

October 12, 1858, Mr. Tait married Miss Catherine Shutts, a native of Columbia County, N. Y., born September 19, 1840, and a daughter of John and Catherine (Cole) Shutts. She was one of a family of six sons and three daughters, of whom the following besides herself now survive: Henry, an attorney of Oregon City, Mo.; Samuel, of Joliet; John, who lives in Chicago; Cassius, a grocer in St. Joe, Mo.; Peter, an attorney in Joliet; and Frank, a farmer in Rooks County, Kans. Mr. Shutts came to Joliet September 13, 1855. He purchased one hundred acres of land on the present site of the Swedish orphans' home, and there he resided up to a few months before his death. His last days were spent in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Tait, where he died September 6, 1899. His wife had passed away December 21, 1878. Both were earnest members of the Central Presbyterian Church. For a number of years he served as supervisor of Joliet Township. He was a man of considerable local prominence and was recognized as one of Will County's representative citizens.

To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Tait six sons and three daughters were born, all but one of whom are still living. John and Magnus are engaged in the fruit business and in cattle ranching at Phoenix, Ariz.; Margaret is the wife of Oscar Laraway, a farmer of Joliet Township; Thomas is engaged in farming on Puget Sound, in Washington; Fred is a partner of Magnus in cattle-raising; Cassius is on the home farm in Jackson Township; Sarah and Robert reside with their mother. Since November, 1898, the family home has been at No. 706 Richards street, Joliet.







*John Threiler*

## JOHN THEILER.

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JOHN THEILER, who was engaged in business in Joliet since 1857, was born in Canton Luzerne, Hassle Amt Entlebuch, Switzerland, December 8, 1829, a son of John and Barbara (Wicke) Theiler, also natives of that canton. In 1847 his father brought the family to the United States and settled in Chicago, where he died seven years later, at fifty-four years of age. His wife also died in that city. They were the parents of six sons and four daughters, nine of whom came to America and four are now living. Two of the sons, John and Joseph, make their home in Joliet, and another son, Anthony, is a farmer near Troy, this state. An uncle (Anthony) is still living in Switzerland, and is now eighty-five years of age. The grandfather, John Theiler, was a farmer in Canton Luzerne, where preceding generations also lived. So far as known, all members of the family have been Roman Catholics.

While still a mere boy, our subject began to make his own way in the world. His first occupation was as a farm hand. In 1847 he accompanied his parents on the sailing vessel "Boston," from Havre to New York, landing after a voyage of thirty-five days. From New York he proceeded up the Hudson to Albany, thence by canal to Buffalo, and from there by boat to Chicago. Going out on the prairie, he helped to put up hay. Later he worked in a packing-house, then in a lime-kiln. The fall of 1850 found him in Joliet, and during the winter he worked in George Woodruff's distillery at Three Points. In the spring he went back to Chicago,

then returned to Joliet in the fall. In 1853 he settled permanently in this county, buying a farm on North Broadway, which later became Saengerbund park. For three years he made his home on that place, meantime improving and cultivating its fifty acres. He then sold, and opened the store which he has since conducted. Until 1862 his location was on North Hickory street, but he then bought a store at No. 110 South Bluff street, and later built on adjoining ground, so that now he has a frontage of seventy-five feet and a depth of eighty feet, with four floors. This large business has been built up through his energy, perseverance and determination.

In 1892 Mr. Theiler assisted in incorporating the E. Porter Brewing Company, of which he has since been a stockholder and director. He has a number of valuable real-estate interests, among these being fifteen acres of his old farm on North Broadway, now known as Theiler park. He also owns twenty-two acres adjoining City park, and easy of access via the West park street cars and the Rock Island Railroad. This property he expects to plat and sell in lots. Until 1896 he adhered to the regular Democratic organization, but its adoption of a silver plank caused him to join the ranks of the gold-standard Democrats. For two terms he served as alderman from the old Twenty-third (now the Third) ward. For many years he has been treasurer of the Saengerbund. At one time he served as president of the Sharpshooters' Association, and he has taken a number of prizes for his skill as a marksman.



His membership is in St. John's Roman Catholic Church, but he also attends and supports St. Patrick's.

The marriage of Mr. Theiler, in Joliet, united him with Miss Lizzie Fender, who was born on the Rhine in Alsace, and in 1846 came to Joliet in company with her father, Michael Fender, who was a gardener here. Mr. and Mrs. Theiler had five children who attained mature years. Of these, John, who was a prominent business man of Joliet, died in February, 1899, and Joseph is now a merchant of this city. The daughters are Mrs. Mary Scheit, Mrs. Louisa Wenner, and Lizzie, also of this city.

JAMES G. HEGGIE, a well-known business man of Joliet, where he has resided since 1875, was born in Scone, Perthshire, Scotland, October 18, 1853. His birthplace was the estate of Scone, now owned by the Earl of Mansfield, and renowned in history as the place where all the kings of Scotland were crowned. His father was born in the county of Fife, and entered the employ of the Earl of Mansfield when a young man. He was engaged in contracting, taking charge of the improvements on the place. As leases on the estate were always made for a term of nineteen years, at their renewal considerable work was necessary. In religion he was connected with the Free Presbyterian Church. At the time of his death he was eighty-one years of age.

The wife of John Heggie was Margaret Smith, a devout woman, of great energy and firmness of character, who died at eighty-four years of age. She was a daughter of Sergeant Henry Smith, of the English army, and was born on the Island of Sicily (her father having been on military duty there at the time of her birth). Her brothers were also military men. One, John Smith, took part in the Crimean war, and another, Henry, died while on duty in India. The children of John and Margaret Heggie were named as fol-

lows: Jessie, who is the wife of James Simpson, of Chicago; John, our subject's business partner; Mary, deceased; Isabelle, Mrs. Dixon, of Scotland; and James G. The last-named was educated in schools connected with the free church in Scotland, supplemented by attendance at an academy. For four years he worked in a lawyer's office. At the expiration of that time he entered the office of the surveyor of taxes, where he remained for a year, and until he came to America.

In 1873 Mr. Heggie crossed the ocean, going to Dekalb County, Ill., where he worked on a farm. From there he came to Joliet, and, having a taste for mechanics, he secured employment with the Joliet Steel Company. After two years in the boiler shop he was made foreman of that department. He remained with the company for seventeen years, during which time he retained the fullest confidence of his employers.

Forming a partnership with his brother in 1892 Mr. Heggie opened a business of his own, having the largest boiler-manufacturing plant in the city. In 1899 they erected a still larger plant, located on the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad; this is one of the largest and best appointed plants of its kind in the entire state. The success with which it has been conducted reflects the greatest credit upon its owners and speaks volumes for their ability and perseverance. The brothers have done a large amount of work for the contractors on the drainage canal, as well as the officers of the sanitary district, and their relations with all have been the most agreeable.

In national affairs Mr. Heggie is a Republican. He has never sought political preferment nor been active in politics. For three terms he served as alderman from the first ward, to which he was twice elected on the Republican and once on the Democratic ticket. Fraternally he is connected with Mount Joliet Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; in this he has held all the offices except that of master. He is interested in some gold property near Deadwood and is vice-president of the Hercules Gold Mining Company. His residence at No. 906 Irving street was erected in 1881, and is modern in all of its appointments. The residence adjoining was built by him at the same time. He

owns several houses, most of which he built. For six years he was director of the People's Homestead & Loan Association.

December 31, 1878, in Chicago, Mr. Heggie married Kate, daughter of William Fraser, a native of Inverness-shire, Scotland; she was born in Hamilton, Ontario, but came to the States at an early age. Mr. and Mrs. Heggie are the parents of eight children, namely: John Fraser, who is in his father's shop; Thomas Melbrun, who has a taste for mechanical engineering and is directing his studies toward that occupation; James Moir, who is in the shop; William Ross, Robert Bruce, Fred, Jeannette Marguerite and Gordon Alexander.

JOSEPH LABO is engaged in the florist's business in Joliet. In the spring of 1898 he bought two acres of land at Raynor and Mason avenues and built a greenhouse. Since then he has built up a large business in cut flowers, nursery and decorative plants. His greenhouses contain twelve thousand square feet of glass and are stocked with the choicest varieties of plants. In addition to his regular work as a florist he has had considerable demand for his services as a landscape gardener, and has displayed taste and talent in this line of business. Desiring to equip his greenhouses with the latest improvements, he has bought a gasoline engine, and uses steam and hot water for heating purposes.

Born in Cologne, Germany, May 21, 1868, our subject is a son of Theodore and Sophia (Mauch) Labo, natives of the same city, where the paternal grandfather was a stone mason and the maternal grandfather, Dominicus Mauch, an expert mechanic and manufacturer of scientific instruments. The father, who was a talented pianist, organist and violinist, played the grand organ in the Cologne Cathedral for years and also taught private pupils. He died in his native city when seventy-one years of age. His wife is still living in that place. They had only two

children, of whom the daughter still remains in Cologne. The son, our subject, spent six years in the Cologne Gymnasium, where he studied German, English, French and Latin. At the age of sixteen he was apprenticed to the trade of florist and landscape gardener in his native town, and after two years he began travel as a journeyman, working in various German towns. In 1887 he entered the Seventh Artillery of Cologne Battery No. 8, in which he served for one year. His knowledge of foreign languages led to his promotion from the ranks to an official position. After retiring from the army he went to England and worked at his trade there, later was similarly engaged in France and Ghent, Belgium.

Coming to America in 1892, Mr. Labo was employed in a large nursery at Rochester, N. Y. In the spring of 1893 he went to Chicago, and for eighteen months worked in Lincoln Park under Superintendent Pettigrew, who recommended him to Warden Allen at Joliet. In this way he was appointed to the position of florist at the state penitentiary. He continued there until February 1, 1899, when he resigned in order to devote his entire attention to private business affairs. While at the penitentiary he laid out the front lawn and made the lily pond, transforming the grounds from their unattractive condition to a beautiful spot. He is a member of the Society of American Florists and takes a warm interest in everything pertaining to his occupation. In religion he is identified with St. John's Roman Catholic Church. He is a member of the Joliet Saengerbund. By his marriage in New York City to Miss Margaret Fisher, a native of Cologne, he has one son, Theodore.

FRANK L. BOWEN, president of the Star Publishing Company of Joliet, and editor of Joliet *Sunday Star*, is one of the well-known newspaper men of his city. In connection with George L. Erhard, in November, 1897, he established the Joliet *Sunday Star*, the only Sunday paper published in the city. From the first the



enterprise was popular and met with success. The paper takes a strong stand for the enforcement of law and order and for the election of men who will enforce the laws. In fact, the first shot that was fired in the campaign against the lawless element in the city was fired by the *Star*, and, while the paper has always been strictly non-partisan, its independent and brave stand for the right have caused both parties to seek to nominate only men with clean records. The circulation is large and is not limited to the city. In size the *Star* is a seven-column, eight-page paper, containing forcible editorials as well as local and general news of interest. The publication is managed by a company, of which Mr. Bowen is president, and treasurer and manager. He also acts as agent for the Burnell Commercial Agency of Marshalltown, Iowa, and publishes their daily report for Will County.

Mr. Bowen was born in Greenwich, Huron County, Ohio, January 16, 1870. When he was a child his parents moved to Michigan. He was educated in the high school and college at Hillsdale, Mich., and the Grand Rapids high school, from which he graduated in 1891. In the fall of the latter year he entered the department of law, University of Michigan, from which he graduated in 1893 with the degree of LL.B. During his university course he was a member of the Jeffersonian Society, and at the same time he took special studies in the department of literature, science and arts. In 1893 he was admitted to the bar in Michigan. He continued special study at the university, taking the post-graduate course in law, and the next year was given the degree

of LL.M. Going to Chicago in 1894 he spent a year in the office of Col. Robert Rae, a prominent practitioner at the federal bar in that city. From the time he was seventeen he had been interested in literary work, and in this way he had paid his expenses while in college.

In 1895 Mr. Bowen accepted a position with the Joliet *Morning Post*. After three months he was made city editor of the paper, and continued in that capacity until the paper was discontinued in 1896. From that time until the spring of 1897 he was connected with the *Daily Republican* on the reportorial staff. He was then elected justice of the peace on the Democratic ticket, receiving a good majority although the township was Republican. He took the oath of office in May, 1897, for a term of four years, and has since served with efficiency and satisfaction to all. Until the national convention of 1896 he was a Republican, but, being a believer in the free coinage of silver, he could not follow his party in its gold standard platform, hence he joined the Democratic ranks. He has been a delegate to the city and county conventions of his party and in 1898 he was a delegate to the state convention at Springfield, where he was assigned to committee work. He was also secretary of the congressional committee. He is identified with the University of Michigan Alumni Association, the Modern Woodmen of America and the North American Union. In religious faith he is a believer in Christian Science. His marriage, which took place in Chicago in 1895, united him with Miss Grace Bursmith, of that city, by whom he has one son, Frank L., Jr.







*John Thider Jr*

## JOHN THEILER, JR.

JOHN THEILER, JR. In every life there is some trait of character that individualizes its possessor. In Mr. Theiler this was found in his passionate devotion to music. With a natural talent for the art, added to and increased by study under the best teachers, he became himself a musician of rare ability and was said to be the finest pianist in Illinois. Music was his soul, and in its study he passed the happiest hours of his life. For years he was organist at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, after which for a time he held a similar position at St. John's. When only seventeen he was able to direct a saengerbund satisfactorily, and for twenty-five years he held the position of director of the Joliet Saengerbund, but, on account of failing eyesight, resigned the year before he died, although he still continued to be a prominent member. By the members of the organization he was loved as a friend, and his services, given without expectation of financial returns, were deeply appreciated. He was director of the saengerfests held in Joliet in 1884 and 1893, which were the most successful affairs of the kind ever held in the city, and were participated in by members of singing societies from every part of the state. In each of these organizations he served as state director. He also took a prominent part in saengerfests held in other states.

A son of John Theiler, Sr., our subject was born in this city August 3, 1858. He was educated in Teutopolis (Ill.) College and St. Vincent's in Pennsylvania. When sixteen years of age he began to learn the business in which his father engaged, and about 1884 he was made a partner, the firm name being John Theiler &

Son. In 1892 his father retired and the name was changed to Theiler Brothers. In 1897 John sold to his brother and started for himself, on the corner of Jefferson and Chicago streets, where he built up a large trade. He was a prominent official in the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and for many years was chief ranger in the order of Foresters. From 1879 until his death he was connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. At different times he served as secretary and treasurer of the Sharpshooters Association, in which he won many medals for fine marksmanship. A man of public spirit, he aided local enterprises. Politically he was a gold Democrat. When twenty-one years of age he was elected assistant supervisor, which office he held for four years. In religion he was identified with St. John's Roman Catholic Church, and after his death, which occurred February 28, 1899, of la grippe, his body was laid to rest in the cemetery of this church.

May 9, 1892, in Joliet, Mr. Theiler married Miss Theresa Flick, who was born in this city, a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Seiter) Flick, natives respectively of Alsace, Germany, and Lancaster, Pa. Her father was two years old when his mother died and eight at the time of the death of his father, Xavier Flick, M. D. Three years later he came alone to the United States, settling in Pennsylvania, where he learned the wagon-maker's trade. For a period of four years he worked at his trade in the navy yards at Brooklyn, N. Y. Then going to Sidney, Ohio, he started a wagon shop of his own. His next location was Freyburg, Allen (now Auglaize) County, where he carried on a shop



until his removal to Joliet, in 1857. In this city he started a boarding house. After a time he bought property, built on it, and continued here until his death, in March, 1872, at fifty-four years.

The marriage of Mr. Flick, in Freyburg, Ohio, in 1840, united him with Elizabeth Seiter, who was born at Millerstown, Lancaster County, Pa., September 30, 1821. Her father, Jarvis Seiter, a native of Baden, Germany, was a weaver of woolens and linens in Millerstown, whence in 1831 he removed to Freyburg, Ohio, and settled on land that he converted into a valuable farm. He died there when fifty-two years of age. His wife, Mary (Wise) Seiter, was born in Baden, Germany, and came with her father to this country, settling in Lancaster County, Pa. Mrs. Elizabeth Flick was one of seven children, of whom three daughters survive, she being the oldest and the only one in Joliet. From ten years of age she was reared in Ohio. While she lacked educational advantages she became a good business woman, and successfully conducted a boarding house in Joliet until 1898. She is still interested in property in Freyburg, Ohio, where she and her husband bought land and platted an addition. She was the mother of five children: Joseph, deceased; Mrs. Mary Adler; Helen, wife of Louis Bellay; Mrs. Lizzie Lux, and Mrs. Theresa Theiler. Joseph G. Flick was the only son. He was educated in Freyburg, Ohio. He came to Joliet with his parents and resided here until his death. He married Catharine Shey, now of Chicago. They were the parents of two children now living: Theresa, and Pius P. Flick, who is a businessman of Chicago, and manager of the Granada Hotel in that city. A notable fact in the history of the Flick family is that for seven generations only one son reached maturity, the last one being Pius P. Flick. Mrs. Theresa Theiler was born at the family home, No. 116 South Bluff street, received her education in St. Francis' Academy, and from early life was an active member of St. John's Church, with which she is now connected. Her only son, John F., died at the age of one year. Upon the death of her husband she disposed of

the business in which he had engaged. She is a lady of generous disposition, charitable and kind-hearted, and willing to assist philanthropic enterprises and worthy people in need of aid.

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**H**ENRY A. RATHJE, who is one of Peotone's most influential men, was born in Monee Township, this county, March 28, 1853, a son of Frederick and Lotta (Narges) Rathje, natives of Rodewald, Hanover, Germany. Of eight children born to their union only three are now living, Henry A., Louis (president of the Chicago City Bank), of Chicago, and Sophia, Mrs. George A. Weimann, of Frankfort, Ill. The father, who was born in 1824, grew to manhood on a farm and in 1843 came to America, settling twenty-five miles west of Chicago in Dupage County, where he worked as a farm hand for about six years. Next he came to Peotone Township and purchased two hundred acres of land three miles north of Monee, where he embarked in farm pursuits. Fifteen years later he moved to Peotone and opened a mercantile store, which was conducted under the title of Schroeder & Rathje for eleven years. For six years he was connected with the firm of Rogers Brothers & Harkin. On retiring from business he managed a forty-acre farm which he owned adjoining the town. He spent his last years in quiet retirement in Peotone. During his active business career he and Benjamin M. Lewis bought extensive farming lands, which they improved and later sold. At the time of his death, April 14, 1891, he owned three hundred and eighty acres. From the establishment of the Lutheran Church in Peotone he served as one of its trustees, and he was also an active worker in the Sunday-school. Politically he was a Democrat. Several times he was elected town trustee and school director, and while at Monee he also served as road commissioner. His father, Frederick, a farmer, came to America in 1845 and settled on a farm in Dupage County, where he died in 1884.

The mother of our subject was a faithful member of the Lutheran Church and will long be remembered for her excellent qualities of head and heart. She died in 1864. Some time afterward Frederick Rathje was again married, his second wife being Miss Margaretha Fink, who survives him. By their union were born two children, now living, Lydia and Clara. Lydia is the wife of Charles E. Jurz and resides in Frankfort, Ill.

When our subject was fifteen years of age his father moved to Peotone and here he acquired a thorough knowledge of the mercantile business. In 1874 he married Miss Wilhelmina Luhmann, a native of Hanover. After his marriage he engaged in the milling business, acquiring the grist mill at Peotone, an old wind mill, which he operated for twelve years. However, the substitution of modern methods in other mills rendered the mill unprofitable to its owner and it was abandoned; but it still stands, a picturesque reminder of other days. For fifteen years Mr. Rathje has also engaged in farming. In 1895, with a partner, he built an elevator at Frankfort Station, but two years later sold his interest in the business. He now owns about four hundred acres in and surrounding the village and the supervision of this property takes much of his time. He is a stockholder and director in the Peotone Electric Light Company. For twelve years or more he has served as school director and for two terms has been town trustee. In any enterprise for the benefit of the town he has always been interested, and his aid could be relied upon. He is particularly interested in the work of the Lutheran Church, to which he belongs and in which he has been treasurer and a trustee for several years. The Sunday-school has enlisted his sympathies and he has aided actively in its management. Though not active in politics, he holds firm opinions and supports the Republican party.

By the first marriage of Mr. Rathje five children were born, four of whom are living: Edward, Anna, Walter and Herman. After the death of his first wife he was again married, April 6, 1885, his wife being Miss Catherine

Koehnecke, who was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to America in 1884, settling in Peotone. This union has resulted in the birth of four children, Emma, Otto, Huldah and Paul. Mrs. Rathje is an estimable lady and a member of the same church as that to which her husband belongs.

**WARD P. ELWOOD.** After some years of practical experience as an employe of others, Mr. Elwood embarked in the plumbing, heating, steam and gas-fitting business in Joliet, where he has his shop at No. 638 Jefferson street. Since he began in business, November 15, 1897, he has been given a number of important contracts, among them being the residence of R. B. Clark, the Ahlvin & Johnson building, Anderson Brothers' block, five residences for Edward S. White, and S. L. Mottinger's residence in Plainfield. In addition to his jobs in Joliet he has had considerable work in other towns, principally in Plainfield, Lockport and Morris, and wherever he has gone the quality of his work has been most satisfactory.

Born in Chicago in 1869, Mr. Elwood is a son of Capt. James G. Elwood, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. He was reared in Joliet and received his education in the city schools. When sixteen years of age he became a lineman for the Joliet telephone exchange, continuing in that capacity for eighteen months. Afterward he was employed on outside work in connection with the Joliet waterworks, of which his father was then engineer. For two years he was in the employ of the Illinois Steel Company. In 1889 he accepted the position as superintendent of the Joliet gas works, and this position he held until January, 1896, the plant being meantime reconstructed for the manufacture of water-gas. On resigning as superintendent he became engineer and pipe-fitter for the Fox Pressed-Steel Company, with whom he remained until he commenced business for himself. In the various positions that he held he was recognized as an



intelligent and efficient employe, whose originality of ideas and quickness of comprehension made his services valuable. These same qualities have been of assistance to him in his present business, and have aided him in establishing a reputation in his chosen occupation.

For three years Mr. Elwood was a member of the Fourth Illinois National Guard. He is connected with the Columbia Knights and the Uniform Rank, K. of P. Without any desire for political prominence, he nevertheless believes it to be the duty of every citizen to keep posted concerning public affairs and maintain an interest in questions affecting the welfare of the people. In his political views he favors the Republican party. He was married in Joliet to Sylvia, daughter of George Merrill, an early settler of this city. They have one child, a son, James Merrill.

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**S**TEPHEN FRANCIS HOGAN. There are few plants in Joliet more interesting to the visitor than the Scott-street mill, owned by the American Steel and Wire Company. This is not only the largest manufacturing plant of the kind in the world, but is one of the most successful as well, and its products, barb-wire nails and woven-wire fence, are shipped to all parts of the world. The success of the work is in a large measure due to Mr. Hogan, who is in charge of the mill, and who exercises a keen and judicious supervision over the entire plant. He is a man who thoroughly understands the wire business in its every detail. Under his supervision the work progresses rapidly; yet due care is also taken with every product, in order that the high standard established may be maintained. The hundreds of billets in the furnace in the morning are in wire nails, packed in kegs, and ready for shipment by evening.

In Richmond, Yorkshire, England, Mr. Hogan

was born December 6, 1858, a son of John and Catherine (McCourt) Hogan, natives respectively of County Tipperary, Ireland, and the Isle of Man. His father, who was the son of a farmer, went to England in young manhood and engaged in the furniture business at Richmond. In 1873 he came to America, settling in Cleveland, Ohio, and carrying on business as a furniture dealer for some years. He and his wife died on the same day in November, 1894, and their bodies were the first two buried in the new Catholic cemetery at Cleveland. Their four sons and two daughters are still living, three of the sons being mill men in Ohio. Our subject, who was next to the oldest of the children, was fourteen years of age at the time the family crossed the ocean to the United States. Previous to this he had attended a parochial school in Richmond. In April, 1873, he arrived in Cleveland, and immediately afterward entered the employ of the Cleveland Rolling Mill Company as a wire-drawer, continuing with the company until 1878. He then went to Pittsburg, Pa., and was wire-drawer with the Oliver & Roberts Wire Company until the time of its removal to Illinois, in November, 1888. His first position was as a wire-drawer with Lambert & Bishop, of Joliet, with whom he remained as such for two years, and then became night superintendent of the mill. Two years later he resigned and returned to Pittsburg, where he was day foreman of the mill owned by Oliver & Roberts for two years. He then again came to Joliet, where he was with Lambert & Bishop, then acted as superintendent of the mill of the Consolidated Steel & Wire Company until the formation of the American Steel and Wire Company, with whom he continued in the same capacity. The Scott-street mill has been under his charge since 1894, and he has superintended its management in a manner entirely satisfactory to the owners. He gives little attention to politics, but is a staunch gold Democrat. He was married in Pittsburg in 1882 to Miss Hattie Graham, who was born in that city, and by whom he has a son, Leo.







*E. S. Ketchum*

## ELNATHAN SATTERLEE KETCHUM.

**E**LNATHAN SATTERLEE KETCHUM. Throughout the length and breadth of Na-au-say Township Mr. Ketchum is recognized as one of Kendall County's foremost farmers and also as one of the township's most influential residents. At the time he purchased a quarter-section of land comprising his present farm, the land was not in good condition, and there were no buildings except an old blacksmith's shop and a stable twelve feet square. At once he began the task of placing the land under cultivation and erecting such buildings as were needed. By the systematic introduction of a thorough drainage system (about two thousand rods of tiling being laid), he reclaimed much of the land that was formerly too wet to utilize. At first he engaged principally in raising and feeding cattle for the market, but after a time he turned his attention largely to the dairy business, and in this he has since continued. His cattle are mostly of the Holstein breed. He is a stockholder and director in the Na-au-say creamery, which has proved a very successful venture. The company owning this creamery also owns and carries on the creamery at Plattville.

Mr. Ketchum was born in Chester, Orange County, N. Y., October 30, 1836. His father, Zopher W., who was also a native of New York, engaged in farming and dairying during the early part of his life, and afterward conducted a mercantile business. By his marriage to Nancy Satterlee he had five children, three of whom are in Illinois, namely: Edward, a resident of

Oswego Township, Kendall County; Zopher, of Aurora; and Elnathan S. The last named was only six years of age when his father died. His education was received in public schools and an academy. On leaving the academy he began to engage in farming and later was salesman in a store for a few years. The latter occupation, however, proved too confining to be healthful, and he decided to seek a home in Illinois, where farm land was cheaper than in New York, and where he might find a more healthful environment than that of a clerk. In 1856 he came to this state and for two years worked as a farm hand, then rented a place in the township of Kendall, where he remained one year. He then spent a year in Na-au-say Township as a renter, after which he bought his present property. He has always been a diligent, enterprising man and has worked early and late in order to place his farm under good cultivation. The result is in every respect gratifying, and he may well pride himself upon having one of the best improved places in this locality.

Both by precept and example Mr. Ketchum gives his influence toward the Prohibition cause, and politically he supports the party that is pledged to work for the extermination of saloons and the liquor traffic. In 1864 he married Sarah E. Marvin, daughter of John D. and Lucy Marvin, of Naperville, and a most estimable lady, whose death in 1896 was a heavy bereavement to Mr. Ketchum. They were the parents of one daughter, Lucy. The latter is the wife of



Hayes Wheeler, who has operated the homestead farm since 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler have a daughter, who is her maternal grandmother's namesake.

**A** MASA E. FIELD, M. D., physician and surgeon, Plattville, is a representative of the noted Field family whose ancestry has been traced to Alsace-Lorraine, now a part of Germany, the original spelling, in 823, being De La Field. Sir Hubertus went to England with William the Conqueror in 1066, and for his services at the battle of Hastings was granted lands in that country. The American ancestors settled in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Virginia, and the name has since become familiar to readers of the religious, political, legal, business and scientific history of the United States. We need only mention a few of its representatives to bear out so broad a statement: Cyrus W. Field, originator of the Atlantic cable; Stephen J. Field, late associate justice of the United States supreme court; and David Dudley Field, the eminent lawyer of New York City; Rev. Henry M. Field, author, and editor of the *Evangelist*, and the late Eugene Field, journalist and poet, of Chicago; George B. Field, eminent as an electrician and originator of the stock ticker; Gov. William Field, of Connecticut, and Marshall Field, the Chicago merchant.

Elijah Field, the great-grandfather of Dr. Field, came from Vermont to Jefferson County, N. Y., in 1811, and settled upon a tract of land which afterward became known as Field's settlement. Here he passed the balance of his life. He was the father of eleven children, his nine sons all locating in Jefferson County. The two oldest sons were Methodist ministers. The others were as follows: Elijah; Alpheus, a farmer; Samuel, a hotel keeper; Spafford; Thaddeus, a carpenter; Philip and Bennett, farmers. The last-named was born in the Green Mountain state in 1800 and attained his manhood in Jefferson County. He married Fannie Wait, and they

had six children. One of their sons, John, engaged in mercantile pursuits in Utica, N. Y.; later he removed to Minneapolis, Minn., where he became a wholesale dealer in boots and shoes. He is now retired. Another son, Widson, removed from De Kalb County, Ill., to Strawberry Point, Iowa, where he was a hardware merchant; he is now owner of a large ranch near Walla Walla, Wash. Chester is a wealthy farmer of Nebraska. Elizabeth, deceased, was the wife of Smith Hill, of De Kalb County, Ill. Elijah was the father of Dr. Field.

Elijah Field was born at Watertown, N. Y., April 13, 1833. When twelve years of age he came to Illinois with his parents and settled at Shabbona Grove, De Kalb County. There, upon his father's farm, he attained his majority and became not only a proficient farmer, but an expert carpenter. He followed his trade until 1862, when he enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Infantry, and was made musician of the company, in which capacity he served until the close of the war. He then returned to De Kalb County and resumed his trade. In 1867 he settled in Plano and for three years was employed as a wood worker at the harvester works of Marsh, Steward & Co. He was then promoted to the foremanship of that department, and, through several changes of proprietorship, retained that position for ten years. In the meantime William Deering had become a partner, and, obtaining control of the business, removed the plant to Chicago in the fall of 1880. Mr. Field then severed his connection with the works, and for about a year was engaged in farming near Marysville, Nodaway County, Mo. After then spending a few months in Chariton County, Mo., he returned to Plano to accept the superintendency of a manufactory there which had recently been established. From 1881 to 1891 he retained this position, when he returned to his farm near Plano, which he managed to the time of his death, August 25, 1898. His wife still resides on the home farm. In view of the above record, it is perhaps unnecessary to add that Mr. Field was a faithful and efficient worker and an upright man in every sense of the word.

He was a firm Republican, a worker in the ranks, but never an official aspirant. In early life he joined Little Rock Lodge No. 171, I. O. O. F., and for years he was closely affiliated with R. B. Hayes Post, G. A. R., of Plano.

The marriage of Elijah Field united him with Jane Fritts, a native of Erie County, Pa. Besides the subject of this sketch they had another child, Elizabeth, the wife of William Gillespie, living with her husband on the homestead.

Dr. Amasa E. Field is a native of Illinois, born in De Kalb County April 13, 1863. He was educated in the Plano public schools and Jennings Seminary, Aurora. At the age of twenty he took a position in the machine shops of the Plano Manufacturing Company. After a training of five years in that capacity he was made foreman of the mower department and spent five years in that position. During the decade in which he was learning and following his trade he was also planning for a professional career. He commenced his medical studies with Dr. Lord, of Plano, and in 1893 entered Rush Medical College, of Chicago, for a systematic course of instruction. Graduating May 23, on June 10, 1895, he established himself in practice at Plattville. Here his ability and genial manners, his practical and progressive disposition, have built up a good professional business. For the past year he has also carried on a drug store. He erected the store and office he now occupies and has bought and platted considerable property. He is a member of the North-Central Illinois Medical Association and is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, of which he is the medical examiner. He is also professionally connected with several of the old-line insurance companies, and is a charter member and medical examiner of the Royal Neighbors. Politically he is an uncompromising Republican and a member of the county central committee. For three years he was director of the Plattville public schools and he has evinced a constant and practical interest in all educational matters. November 6, 1900, he was elected coroner of Kendall County.

September 29, 1885, Dr. Field was united in

marriage with Miss Lillian Ida Fritts, daughter of William H. and Josephine (Washburn) Fritts. She is a native of Newark, her father now living in Plano and her mother being dead. She was one of five children, the others being William E., foreman of Whitman & Barnes' paint shops at West Pullman, Ill.; Myrtle, wife of Frank Irvin, of Plano; Carrie, wife of Ivan L. Smith, Plano; and Blanche, manager and stenographer in the office of the Phoenix Shoe Company at West Pullman. The children of Dr. and Mrs. Field are Vita Ruth, Robert Wait and Elijah William.

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CHARLES H. RAYMOND. One of the honored old citizens of Bristol Township, Kendall County, both in years and in length of residence in this locality, Charles H. Raymond, is justly entitled to representation in the history of his county. His family long has been prominent in Massachusetts, and several generations of the Raymonds have been actively engaged in agricultural pursuits. The father of the subject of this article, Zenas, son of Edward Raymond, was born in the Bay State and was reared to the labors of farming. He married Clara Ryder, and three children blessed their union. Granville, brother of Charles H. Raymond, came to the west many years ago, but since that time has been summoned to the home above.

The birth of the subject of this sketch occurred in Middleborough, Plymouth County, Mass., October 22, 1816. He obtained a fair education, for his time, and, as there was a flourishing nail factory near his home, he then found employment within its walls, and was thus engaged chiefly until 1844. In that year he determined to seek a home in the west, and as far as Albany he was able to make the journey on the newly completed railroad. Thence he proceeded by the old canal route to Buffalo and there embarked in a steamer bound for Chicago. Arriving in northeastern Illinois, he spent some time in prospecting for a suitable place of location, and at last decided that no better land could be selected than that which since has been his place of residence.



This farm, situated on section 9, Bristol Township, comprises nearly seven hundred acres of valuable land, and at the time Mr. Raymond purchased the place an old log cabin 16x20 feet in dimensions constituted the chief improvement, no fences then having been built here. Having paid for the property a portion of the \$3,000 which he had carefully accumulated during his years spent in the eastern factory, he proceeded to inaugurate a series of material improvements, and within a few years a complete transformation had taken place in the farm. At first he made the raising of wheat his chief business, but gradually gave more and more attention to the raising of live stock, and in this line met with marked success. For years he was obliged to carry his farm products to the Chicago markets. Like other pioneers, he was handicapped in every venture. His land was broken with oxen, and many of his crops of grain were harvested by means of the old hand-manipulated cradle, four acres being as much as one man could attend to in a day. The old style wooden mould-board plow, with a steel or iron shear, was utilized here for a long period, but how gladly the new inventions were taken instead may be imagined. He found the raising of horses a profitable business, and often kept from forty to sixty at a time on his farm. The people of this county were his chief customers and his horses commanded from \$100 to \$125 a head. Later he was more extensively concerned in the raising of cattle, Herefords being his favorites, and oftentimes there were as many as one hundred and seventy-five in his herds, three hundred acres of excellent pasture land being devoted to their use. He also raised and shipped annually one or two car-loads of swine, and thus in every department and branch of farming and stock-raising it may be seen that he took the lead of the majority of his neighbors in the amount of business transacted.

Politically Mr. Raymond has been actively interested in the success of the Democratic party, and his personal popularity is evident from the fact that he was elected and served twenty-one years as supervisor, though his township is avowedly a Republican district. For a score of

years he acted on the school board, and the first schoolhouse in this district was built upon his land and upon the identical spot where his own residence now stands. Religiously he has been a pillar of the Methodist Church for several decades, and as long as his health permitted him to attend the services regularly he occupied some official position in the church board of officers.

In 1841 Mr. Raymond married Lydia Burrell, and together they trod the highway of life for half a century, the wife being called to the better land in 1891. Her mortal remains were placed to rest in Oak Grove cemetery, north of the town of Bristol. The children born to this worthy couple are named as follows: Jacob L., a retired farmer, now of Aurora; Clara, widow of John Eccles; Charles H., Jr., who is on the home farm; Lizzie, wife of Arthur Barnes, of Eagle Grove, Iowa; Martin, a farmer of Missouri; John N., an attorney-at-law in Aurora; and George B., who is assisting in the management of the old homestead. The latter married Catherine, daughter of John Eglington, and they have one child, Eva.

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**C**HARLES EMMET JETER. Among the enterprising young business men of Plano Charles E. Jeter ranks foremost, and in commercial circles of this thriving place, as well as in local political circles, he is very popular and rapidly coming to the front. He possesses acknowledged ability as a financier and in public affairs has a broad, liberal view of the great issues of the day.

Luther J. Jeter, father of our subject, and a member of the same firm, Jeter & Boston, is a worthy representative of one of the fine old families of Virginia. His father, Gideon Jeter, a substantial farmer, was born in Bedford County, Va., December 3, 1814, and in the Old Dominion married Sarah J. Baldwin in 1836. Their only living child, James, resides in Woodford County, Ill. The second wife of Gideon Jeter was Lucy A. Leonard, and their four children were, William H. and Luther J., of Kendall County; Mrs. Virginia Hatcher, of Peoria; and John C.,



of Kane County, Ill. In 1853 Gideon Jeter came to this state, locating in Woodford County, where he is yet living, and though eighty-five years old he is hale and enjoys life. His wife is also living. Their son Luther, who was born in Roanoke County, Va., March 22, 1851, has spent nearly his entire life in Illinois. For seven years he was engaged in the hardware business in Roanoke, Ill., but in 1885 sold out, and coming to Yorkville, entered into partnership with Mr. Boston, buying a lumber yard there. By virtue of the enterprise and sagacity which they exercised, they succeeded in building up a great trade and in 1887 they also purchased an elevator and grain business at Yorkville, and in July, 1898, they became owners of a lumber yard at Plano. In 1873 the marriage of Luther Jeter and Emma R. Woods, a daughter of John Woods, of Woodford County, was solemnized. Their eldest child is Charles E., of this sketch, and the eldest daughter, Lorene, died when fifteen years old. The younger children are Roy W., Luther Ray and Frances L.

Charles E. Jeter, whose birth occurred in Roanoke, Woodford County, Ill., March 3, 1875, was in his tenth year when the family removed to Yorkville. He received a good general education in the public schools of that place and later attended the Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill., for three years, pursuing a scientific course. Upon his return he entered his father's office, where he gained a comprehensive knowledge of the business, and in the spring of 1898 was admitted to a partnership with his senior. They purchased the elevator and grain business at Plano, in April, 1898, and in July following became owners of the lumber yards here, of which the son is in entire charge. About two hundred and fifty car-loads of grain are handled here each year, and the increase of business under our subject's management is marked, and is extremely promising for the future.

Following in his father's footsteps, politically as well as commercially, Mr. Jeter is an active factor in the success of the Democratic party. In local affairs he is independent, and in April, 1900, was nominated and subsequently elected to the

city council of Plano. Socially he is identified with the Blackhawk and Merrimac Clubs and is a member of Sunbeam Lodge No. 428, A. F. & A. M. He has attended the Methodist Episcopal Church since his boyhood. On the 28th of June, 1899, he married Miss Mae Cotton, a daughter of B. A. Cotton, a well-known citizen of Yorkville.

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**G**EORGE JACKSON SQUIRES. The untrodden fields of commerce and business must always be opened to the public through the courage and foresight of those who hesitate not at new ventures, and whose forte it is to build up new enterprises. Of this heroic type of men was the gentleman whose name we have placed at the head of this sketch. He was born in Watertown, Jefferson County, N. Y., December 5, 1828, and died at his beautiful home, on section 10, Oswego Township, January 6, 1900, his death being a loss not only to his family and friends, but to the entire community.

Asher Squires, father of George J., spent the larger part of his life in New York, the state of his birth, but in middle life removed to Illinois, where he was engaged in farming pursuits until his death. He married Polly Priest, who was born in Vermont, and of the twelve children born of their union, five died in childhood and four are now living, namely: Louisa, widow of the late Charles Osgood, of Janesville, Wis.; Lavinia, who married the late John Skelly, of Janesville, Wis.; Orrin, of Seward, Neb.; and Lewis, of Greene, Iowa.

George J. Squires acquired his early education in the district schools of Watertown, and when eighteen years of age spent one winter in Michigan, visiting his Grandfather Priest, and while there assisted in cutting the timber from the present site of the city of Lansing, where Mr. Priest had located. In the spring of 1849, having previously returned to the parental home, he made arrangements to go to California by way of the "Horn," but after proceeding a short distance found that his money had been stolen, so he

returned home. The following spring he again attempted the trip, but took the overland route, going by team and passing through Oswego, Ill. After the usual hardships and perils from sickness, lack of water, provisions, etc., he arrived at his point of destination, and was there engaged in mining two years. Returning east by way of the isthmus, he was taken sick with a fever while en route, being so ill that preparations were made for burying him at sea, but through the careful nursing of a companion he recovered. In his mining ventures he was successful, making enough money to purchase a farm in the neighborhood in which he was reared, but within a few months he sold out and started for Illinois, taking unto himself a life partner first, however.

Mr. Squires was married January 22, 1852, to Emeline A. Bent, who was born November 7, 1827, in Watertown, N. Y., a daughter of Silas P. Bent. Mr. Bent was born and reared in Vermont, and there married Orythea Shaw, a native of the same town, and the descendant of a prominent New England family. He and his family subsequently removed to Jefferson County, N. Y., and thence came to Illinois, where he bought a half section of land in DeKalb County. Their family included six children, namely: Emeline A., now Mrs. Squires; Darius S., who died in New York when twenty years old; John J., who spent his life in DeKalb County; Levancia, who made her home with Mrs. Squires as long as she lived, passing away at the Squires homestead in May, 1900; Martha A., widow of Dana Earle, late of Lake City, Iowa; and Mary, widow of the late Dr. J. B. Earle, for many years a successful physician of DeKalb, Ill.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Squires, accompanied by his father-in-law, came to Illinois in search of a location, but did not at that time buy any land, although Mr. Bent bought in DeKalb County. A few months later he again came west, bringing the entire Squires and Bent families. Taking up his residence in Aurora, he engaged in the grain business with William Tanner, formerly of New York. In February, 1854, Mr. and Mrs. Squires, with Mr. Bent, embarked in a

new enterprise, going to Texas to look for cattle. Mr. Bent, who was suffering from rheumatic fever, had to be carried on a bed to the station, where they boarded the first train that ran over the Illinois Central Railroad, going as far as Cairo, where they took the boat for New Orleans. From there Mr. Squires proceeded alone to a point near Houston, where he gathered up a herd of five hundred cattle to drive to Illinois. Buying a suitable conveyance, Mrs. Squires drove back with the two men from Austin, Tex., coming across Kansas and Missouri, crossing the Mississippi at Hannibal and reaching home after a tiresome journey of several months with the first drove of cattle ever driven to this state from Texas, thus becoming a pioneer in the business which has since been so profitable. For some time thereafter the cattle were grazed on the prairie, near the present site of Riverside, and were then driven to the Chicago Stock Yards. Mr. Squires very soon after established the first lumber business in Aurora, on the west side, but soon disposed of that and bought the Blackhawk flouring mills, which he operated a number of years.

Selling the mills, he engaged in business as a stock dealer on an extensive scale, going each year to Texas, where he had a sheep ranch of five thousand acres, on which he collected and grazed the stock before bringing them North. For a few years he resided in Montgomery. While living there he had a severe sickness and when sufficiently recovered went to the mountains of Idaho to recuperate. Among the incidents of this trip was a perilous ride of weeks down the Yellowstone River in a flat-boat, in company with others. Numerous encounters with hostile Indians and scarcity of food added to the hardships of the trip. Notwithstanding all this he returned to his home in good health, arriving there on Thanksgiving Day of 1864. Soon afterward, accompanied by his family, he removed to the home now occupied by them in Oswego Township. The farm consisted of nearly three hundred acres. Under his judicious management the entire aspect of the place was changed, the original story and a-half house having been en-



tirely remodeled and converted into a large and conveniently arranged residence, with which is connected a summer garden, half garden and half park, an idyllic retreat, beautiful in its systematic disorder, the whole being planned and arranged by Mrs. Squires herself. During the last twenty years of his life Mr. Squires rented out his land, retaining the residence for his own use. Five years of the time, however, he and his family spent at their home in Grand Island, Neb., whence they often accompanied him on his trips of business or pleasure.

Mr. Squires was formerly a Whig, but was afterwards a staunch Republican. In religion he was a Baptist, and fraternally he was a Mason. Of the five children born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Squires, two died in infancy. Georgiana, who married B. F. Harrington, a prominent attorney of Yorkville, has two children, Bessie, wife of J. R. Burks, and George S.; John, who resides on the homestead, married Emma Wingert, of Grand Island, Neb., and they have one child, George Howard; Grace resides with her aged mother.

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**F**RANCIS COOKE BEANE, who is one of the prominent business men of Fox, Kendall County, was born in the township of Oswego, this county, February 14, 1858. His father, Walter Cooke Beane, a native of Norfolk County, England, accompanied his parents to America when ten years of age. In 1839 his father, John Cooke Beane, came to Illinois, and for a few years followed milling at Plainfield, after which he was similarly engaged at Oswego. He then turned his attention to farming, which he followed during his remaining years. Walter C. was reared to a knowledge of farm pursuits, and his entire life was devoted to agriculture. In 1859 he removed to Big Rock Township, Kane County, Ill., and from there, in 1868, he came to Kendall County, buying two hundred and forty acres in the town of Fox. On his retirement from active labor he went to Aurora, where and in Plano he spent a year, but the change did not

agree with him, and he returned to the farm, after which he resided here until his death, September 17, 1898, at seventy-one years of age. He was not active in politics. In religion he was a member of the Church of England. He married Sarah Pooley, whose parents came to Kendall County from England in 1856. Seven children were born of their union, all now living, and of these Frank C. is the eldest. He was educated in the public schools of Kane County and the Sugar Grove Industrial and normal school.

When twenty-two years of age he left home on a trip of inspection in various sections. On his return to the homestead he resumed farm work. At the time of his marriage he purchased a part of the farm, after which he gave his attention wholly to the cultivation of the same until 1895. He then took the management of the elevator at Fox station, which had been recently completed. He took in the first load of grain ever received at the elevator. Since he assumed the management of the business a good trade has been built up, and the enterprise has proved remarkably successful. In addition, he carries on a saw-mill, and manufactures and sells a high grade of hardwood lumber. In connection with his other business he has a feed-mill. He also handles, as agent, the King and Hamilton plows, the Moline Wagon Company's wagons, the J. E. Porter corn planter, the Sandwich Manufacturing Company's hay-loaders, the Deere farming implements, the Jones mower and hay-rakes, the Plano harvester and binder, etc. As may be supposed, his time is fully taken up with the details of his several business enterprises. He is a man of such energy and determination that any business of which he is the head could not but grow, and we see an evidence of his enterprise in the fact that he now ships one hundred and fifty cars of grain per year, which is twice the amount of the business at first. Since coming into the village he has rented his eighty-acre farm, and is therefore able to devote himself wholly to his various enterprises in town.

In politics Mr. Beane is a Democrat, and has served as a delegate to county, senatorial and congressional conventions of his party. For



four years (since 1896) he has held the office of justice of the peace. He also served as a member of the school board.

Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His marriage took place December 16, 1885, and united him with Emma Jane, daughter of Hugh Kennedy, of Bristol Township, where she was born. They are the parents of four daughters: Ruth, Elizabeth, Alice and Ellen. Hugh Kennedy was a native of Schaghticoke, Rensselaer County, N. Y., a son of Hugh Kennedy, also a native of New York, of Irish descent. Mrs. Beane's mother, Jane Ann Shibley, was born in Montgomery County, N. Y., a daughter of Christian and Mary Ann Shibley, natives of New York, of Swiss and Dutch descent.

**C**HARLES C. HOGE. Although the duration of Mr. Hoge's residence in Kendall County is exceeded by that of many other farmers of Big Grove Township, yet perhaps none has done more to develop the agricultural resources of this region. Especially has his work been helpful in reclaiming land that had been considered worthless by reason of swamps. He is the owner of eleven hundred acres, the larger part of which he rents, although he operates between three and four hundred acres himself, devoting the land to general farming and stock-raising. On his land he has from fifteen to sixteen thousand ten-inch tile, besides a greater number of eight-inch and smaller tile. Through this systematic draining he has reclaimed a large area of swampy land, which has since proved to be the richest of his holdings.

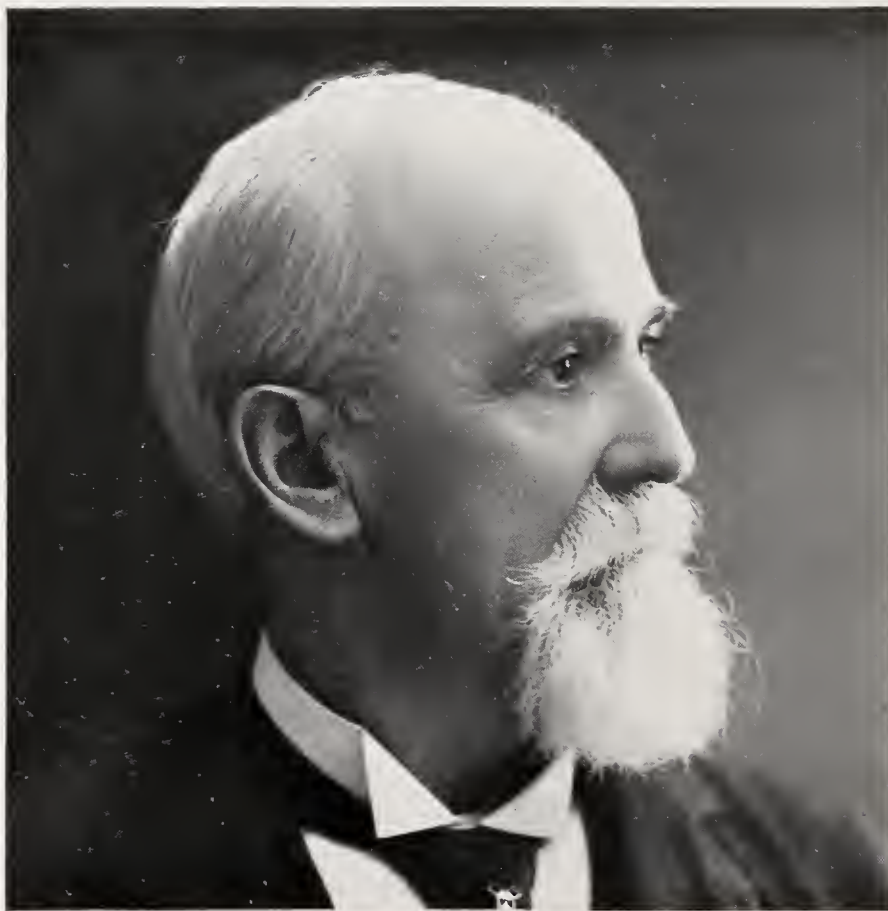
About 1836 our subject's father, Samuel Hoge, a native of Virginia, migrated to Illinois and settled in Grundy County, taking up a tract of government land in Nettle Creek Township. As he prospered he added to his holdings until he became a large land owner. In early days he hauled the products of his farm to Chicago prin-

cipally, though in part to Ottawa. In politics he was a Republican, and on that ticket was elected county supervisor. After settling in Grundy County he married Matilda, daughter of Abraham Holderman, who had come from Ohio to Illinois in 1831. Mr. Hoge died in 1881 and his wife in 1898. Of their fifteen children nine are living, Charles Cortworth being next to the youngest. He was born at Nettle Creek, Grundy County, September 1, 1861, and was educated in public schools and the normal school at Morris, later taking a business course at Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College in Chicago. Called home by the illness of his father, he assumed control of affairs, as his older brothers had started out years before on their own account, and he therefore was obliged to take the responsibilities upon himself. He operated the homestead until the year 1886, when he removed to his present farm in Kendall County.

The Republican party has received the support of Mr. Hoge ever since he became a voter. At different times he has been delegate to county and state conventions of the party. In 1890 he was elected supervisor, and this office he filled with the greatest efficiency for ten years, meantime evincing an interest in every movement for the benefit of the county and supporting progressive measures. He is a friend of the public school system, and has served several years on the school board. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Masonic order, in the latter belonging to the blue lodge at Lisbon and chapter and commandery at Morris, Ill.

The marriage of Mr. Hoge took place October 13, 1886, and united him with Carrie T. Quigley, a native of Harmersburg, Pa., and daughter of Henry and Matilda (Close) Quigley, both of whom were born in the same state, the former of Irish and the latter of German descent. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hoge, namely: Mabel E., Samuel R. and Ruth, of whom the last-named died when about one year of age.





AVERY N. BEEBE



## AVERY N. BEEBE.

AVERY N. BEEBE, one of the best-known and most justly popular citizens of Kendall County, has occupied responsible public positions here for the past sixteen years, and has given such general satisfaction to the public that he still retains his official position. His numerous friends will take pleasure in the perusal of his life-history, and no eulogy, save the recital of his manly, straightforward career, is needed as a monument to his merits.

Mr. Beebe is a son of Capt. David and Nancy (Steward) Beebe, who were married in New London, Conn., in 1830. The father, a native of that town, was for many years captain of a merchantman plying between the West Indies and New York City, but after his marriage he gave up his sea-faring life and followed the trade of house and carriage painter until the year 1834, when with his family he migrated to what was then considered the far-off west, Sandusky County, Ohio. Here he bought a farm and commenced farm life in a new and sparsely settled country.

The father of this pioneer was David Beckwith Beebe, and his mother Elizabeth Beckwith, both natives of Connecticut and descended from French and English ancestry, who were engaged in the support of the colonists during the Revolutionary struggle.

Captain Beebe and his estimable wife were members of the Baptist Church and were universally respected for their uprightness of character. He held various civil offices in his locality, at

one time paymaster for the Ohio state militia. In the year 1849, when gold was discovered in California, he with others crossed the plains by ox-teams to the gold mines, and after an absence of two years there he started homeward by way of the Isthmus of Panama on the steamship Prometheus, but ere he reached New York City he was taken sick and died of yellow fever.

Politically he was first a Democrat, but later he gave his allegiance to the Free-soil party. His widow became the wife of Robert Connelly in 1855, and they afterward became residents of Plano. Mr. Connelly died soon after coming to Illinois.

Mrs. Connelly was the youngest daughter of Nathan and Drusilla Steward and the ninth of a family of eleven children, all natives of Connecticut. Her father, a farmer and county surveyor, was a perfect type of a self-made man. Though his opportunities for acquiring an education were limited to four months in school, yet by his indomitable energy and perseverance he acquired a good practical education, which enabled him to teach public schools during winter seasons. He soon distinguished himself as a mathematician and was able to solve very difficult mathematical problems which came to him from all parts of the country. Her mother, Drusilla Steward, whose maiden name was Rogers, was of the family of the historic John Rogers, who suffered martyrdom on account of his religious faith under the reign of Queen Mary. Mrs. Connelly was a

zealous and faithful co-worker in church and temperance organizations, and a tireless and enduring friend to the poor and needy, a cheerful giver to the unfortunate, but she never enlisted in the cause of reform for the sake of popularity.

The second brother of Mrs. Connelly, Marcus Steward, was the father of the late ex-congressman, Hon. Lewis Steward, of this eighth Congressional District of Illinois, both residents of Plano.

The children born to Captain Beebe and wife were as follows: Nancy S. Henning, first wife of G. D. Henning, of Plano, now deceased; Avery N., of Yorkville; David W., of Urbana, Iowa; Henry Harris, who served in the Forty-ninth Ohio Regiment under General Gibson, and was wounded at Buzzard Roost, Miss., from which he did not recover and died in 1864; Hiram (twin brother of Henry), who died in infancy; and Drusilla, the second daughter, who died at the age of three years. By her second marriage our subject's mother had one child, Marvin H. Connelly, who died in Chicago, April 28, 1896, and leaving a wife, Mrs. Jessie Connelly, now of the city.

The subject of our sketch was born in New London, Conn., August 2, 1833. His early years were spent in Ohio and his mature life has been spent in Illinois. At the age of twenty-four he journeyed across the country with another young man from Ohio, to southern Iowa, each with a team of horses and wagon. Encountering swollen streams, they met with an accident by which Mr. Beebe lost a valuable horse and other equipments, and came near drowning in one of the tributaries of the Mississippi river.

Returning from Iowa to Plano he engaged as salesman in the general store of Henning & Steward and later he embarked in the hardware trade. He afterward engaged in the wholesale trade, commencing with a New York house, but later connected himself with Chicago houses, which he found more popular for the trade in his Illinois territory. In the spring of 1881 he was appointed as an examiner in the interior department at Washington, which position he filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to the

government, but was forced to give up his position on account of sickness in his family.

In 1861 he married Miss Frances A., the third daughter of George W. and Lucia Bradley. His wife was a native of Laporte, Ind., her father's family becoming residents of Kendall County at an early day. The children born to our subject and his wife are: Jencie Ellen, who married George E. Watkins; George Avery, now at Eagle, Alaska; Mabel Frances, deceased; Lina Newel, deputy circuit clerk; Allen David, an invalid; and Charles William, now in school. His eldest daughter died, leaving one son, Hurlbut B. Watkins, who is living with his grandparents.

In politics Mr. Beebe has always been a consistent Republican and cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont in 1856, and has voted for every Republican candidate for president. He has filled other local official positions, first town clerk of Little Rock Township, then for seven years justice of the peace; a member and clerk of the first board of trustees of Plano; and one term as president of the board; and one of the first aldermen when that town adopted a city charter, and was chairman of a committee to revise the ordinances for the city. He is a member of the Hamilton Club of Chicago, a Republican organization; The Aurora City Club of Aurora, and the Maramech Club of Plano, the two latter being non-partisan and social organizations. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity and one of the charter members of Sunbeam Lodge No. 428, A. F. & A. M., at Plano, in which he served one term as master and six terms as secretary.

In the fall of 1884, when our subject was sixty miles away from home engaged for his house in selling goods, he received a telegram from his Kendall County friends informing him of his nomination as clerk of the circuit court, to which office he was subsequently elected and has since filled so satisfactorily that every nominating convention since that time has re-nominated him by acclamation, the expiration of the term for which he has just been re-elected will make twenty years of continuous faithful service.



In 1888 he drafted a correct and excellent map of the city of Plano, and in the year 1890 he compiled and published a complete township, farm and school map of Kendall County.

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JAMES SMITH HATCH, whose home is in the village of Little Rock, Kendall County, is the oldest son of Isaac Hatch, and a descendant of Joseph Hatch, who came to America with the Pilgrim Fathers. Isaac Hatch was born in Saratoga County, N. Y., October 12, 1815, and was reared on a farm until sixteen years of age, when he went to Oswego, N. Y., and there worked for two years for his stepfather. He was given his time when eighteen, after which he worked on a farm four years. In 1837 he purchased a claim to one hundred and sixty acres of land in Kane County, Ill., adjoining Little Rock Township on the north. As his land lay in the route of a stage line, he built a blacksmith shop there, and this he operated until 1848. He then turned his attention wholly to farming. Besides farming he engaged in dairy pursuits and made a specialty of manufacturing cheese. He also conducted a general store. His reputation was that of an upright, industrious man. An active Republican, he filled a number of offices. For twenty-five years he was supervisor of the township and for several years justice of the peace. He died here March 26, 1895. His marriage took place in October, 1843, and united him with Adelia Potter, by whom he had four children, viz.: James S.; Henry, who was killed at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain during the Civil war; Amanda, wife of Edward Hall; and Anna, Mrs. Hatch, who died in 1880.

In the county where he now resides our subject was born February 6, 1845. When little more than sixteen years old he enlisted in the Union army, becoming a member of Company E, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, August 10, 1861. In March, 1864, he re-enlisted, serving until the close of the war. He was discharged as sergeant at Camp Chase, Ohio, June 27, 1865. During his service he was three times wounded, the last

time at Kenesaw Mountain, where he was captured, taken a prisoner to Atlanta, thence to Macon and Andersonville, later to other prisons. At the expiration of eight months and ten days after being taken prisoner he was exchanged and rejoined his regiment. After his return home he engaged in farming until 1873, when he retired and established his home in Little Rock. A Republican in politics, he was school trustee and township assessor for three years each, and also served as justice of the peace. For fourteen years he was a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church. October 10, 1866, he married Josephine Schryver, daughter of William and Martha Schryver. They have five children, viz.: Hortense Edith, who married John Petree, and lives in Kane County; Vincent A., William I., Edna I. and Paul W.

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VINCENT ALBERT HATCH, who is one of the prosperous farmers of Kendall County, occupies and operates a valuable estate adjoining the village of Little Rock. He was born August 19, 1869, in a house north of the site of his present residence, and is a son of James S. Hatch. His education was begun in the public school at Little Rock and completed in a seminary at Aurora. When fifteen years of age he went to live with his grandfather, on the place where he now resides. At twenty-one years of age he took up the farm he has since operated. Of his property one hundred acres are in oats and one hundred and thirty-five in corn. The corn that he raises is used for feeding his stock, and in addition he usually has to buy considerable feed each year. He ships from four to six carloads of cattle and several cars of hogs annually, besides which he milks from twenty-five to thirty cows and sells the milk to the creamery. He operates, altogether, over three hundred and twenty acres of fine land, all of which is under the plow except a small tract of timber near the barn. The farm is on the county line, the house standing in Kane County.

One of the most noticeable improvements on



the farm is the barn, built in 1897. This is a substantial structure, 46x96 feet in dimensions, with twenty-two-foot posts and drop siding, equipped with modern conveniences, and built in such a manner as to be well adapted for the storage of large quantities of grain. In every respect the barn is fitted for the purposes to which it is devoted. The building was put up to replace a barn that had been destroyed by fire and that contained, at the time of the fire, seventy-five tons of hay, thirty tons of straw, four thousand bushels of oats and three head of horses. For some years Mr. Hatch has given considerable attention to the buying and selling of cattle, buying throughout the surrounding country and shipping in carload lots to the Chicago market. To operate his land, eleven head of horses and three hired men are employed, and during busy seasons this force of assistants is increased.

Politically Mr. Hatch is a Republican and fraternally is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. His first marriage took place October 17, 1890, and united him with Jennie Maude, daughter of Wallace Bartlett, of Little Rock. This lady died in March, 1894, leaving a daughter, Neva Pearl. The present wife of Mr. Hatch, whom he married in June, 1896, was Hattie Jefferson, daughter of Thomas Jefferson, of Plano. One child blesses this union, a son, Howard Smith Hatch, who was born May 14, 1897.

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**W**ILLIAM ISAAC HATCH, highway commissioner of Little Rock Township and a well-known young farmer of Kendall County, is a native of this locality and was born September 20, 1871, on a farm that was occupied by his father, James S. Hatch. After the manner of farmer boys he alternated attendance at school with work on a farm during the years of his boyhood. He assisted his grandfather, Isaac Hatch, on the latter's farm and in early life acquired a thorough knowledge of agricultural pursuits. Having a natural liking for the occupation, he selected farming for his calling in life, and already he has made more than ordinary success in the work.

When twenty-one years of age Mr. Hatch settled upon the farm where he now resides, one-half mile south of the village of Little Rock. He started with three hundred and seven acres, but, having been successful, he has added to his property and now owns four hundred acres. Both as a stock and grain-raiser he has been prosperous. A goodly number of Durham milch cows may be seen on his farm, and he has found the dairy business a valuable adjunct to the ordinary farm pursuits. At the time of purchasing the farm a neat farm house stood on it, but the building was less comfortable than Mr. Hatch desired, and he has therefore remodeled and enlarged it, making of it a cozy homestead.

As a citizen Mr. Hatch shows an interest in every enterprise for the prosperity of his township and county. When informed of any new movement he studies its advantages carefully, and, on becoming fully convinced of its worth, gives his influence to it unreservedly. He is therefore a valuable citizen. The Republican party receives his vote, both in local and general elections. Besides the office of highway commissioner which he now holds, he is also serving as a member of the board of school directors, and, through these two positions, he has been able to promote the interests of the roads and schools of this township.

The marriage of Mr. Hatch, January 7, 1893, united him with Lizzie, daughter of Robert Davis, of Big Rock. They are the parents of a son and daughter, Bernice and Merle.

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**W**ALTER STOWELL, a pioneer of 1831 in Illinois and of 1834 in Kendall County, was born in Connecticut August 25, 1789. He grew to manhood and married in that state, and, after the death of his first wife, moved to Ohio, where he again married. In the spring of 1831, accompanied by a Mr. Butterfield and family, he started for the west, traveling by ox-team and the customary prairie schooner. His companions remained in Indiana, but the Stowells pushed on, and in June, 1831, reached the straggling houses

around Fort Dearborn, then dignified as a village. It was finally decided to locate on the Dupage River, about five miles from the present site of Naperville, and there Mr. Stowell engaged in farming for a period of three years. A carpenter by trade, he erected a double log house on the road from Ottawa to Chicago, established a stage house or tavern and later became postmaster. He erected the first mill in that region, which was run by horse power. During the Black Hawk war, while his family was at Fort Dearborn, he was a sergeant in the Naperville Guards.

In 1834 Mr. Stowell removed to Kendall County, buying a claim of some six hundred acres in Big Grove Township. This tract had been somewhat improved, and in a log cabin already built he lived with his family until 1837. He then settled in Newark, where he built the first hotel in the village. As the hostelry was on the route of Walker's stage line, then the principal means of communication with Chicago, his business increased so rapidly that in 1840 he erected another building, larger than the first. The original structure has since been moved across the street and is still used as a hotel. For many years he conducted the stage-house and postoffice, his land in time embracing most of the present site of Newark. As a Democrat he also took a leading part in local politics and was esteemed one of the most prominent citizens of Kendall County. His second wife, who was Susan (Butler) Stowell, died May 19, 1846, and about five years thereafter he settled at Fulton, investing in town property there, while retaining his interests in Newark. In 1855 he married Cornelia McLain.

In religion Walter Stowell was a firm defender of spiritualism, and he led an exemplary life. In 1818 he joined the Masonic Order at Harpensfield, Ashtabula County, Ohio, and for fifty-eight years thereafter was identified with the fraternity. It was quite fitting, therefore, that he should have been buried, at Fulton, with all the honors due his long standing in the order. He passed away there April 10, 1876.

The children born to the second marriage of Mr. Stowell were as follows: Calvin M., who died

in Manchester, Winnebago County, Ill., January 20, 1892; Walter A., whose death occurred at Fulton, Ill., in December, 1899; Phoebe, wife of George D. Barrows, of Kendall County; Sally, who died at the age of thirteen years; Eliza, who married James Grant and died at Fulton in 1855; John L. and Millie L. (twins), the former being a resident of Gay's Mills, Wis. (for many years a lawyer, justice of the peace, etc.), and the latter (the wife of Hiram Powers) died at Aurora, Ill., in 1898; Susan, who married Henry Stowell, settled in Santa Marie, Cal., during the early '50s and died there in September, 1891; and Josephine, who died in childhood.

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**G**EORGE DUNBAR BARROWS. In point of years of residence in Kendall County there are few men whose record equals that of Mr. Barrows. Here he has made his home since 1837, when he was a youth of eighteen years. He has witnessed the development of the county and has borne his part in promoting its prosperity. With his wife, who came to the county in 1834 and is therefore an earlier pioneer than he, he shares the esteem and regard of a large circle of old-time friends and associates.

In Westmoreland, Cheshire County, N. H., Mr. Barrows was born December 1, 1819, a son of Elijah and Serephina (Daggett) Barrows. He well remembers the long and hard trip across the country from New York. Nor has he forgotten the appearance of Newark when the family reached the settlement. The hamlet was a mere cluster of a few insignificant houses. The surroundings were those of the frontier, and the pioneer had no easy task before him in attempting to clear and cultivate a farm. Yet that was the task to which he and his father set themselves. He had no educational advantages. The knowledge he possesses has been acquired by observation and reading.

June 16, 1839, Mr. Barrows married Phoebe Stowell, who was born in Perry, Ashtabula County, Ohio, March 24, 1822, and was one of



the seven children of Walter and Susan (Butler) Stowell, who settled in Kendall County in 1834. At the time of her marriage she was seventeen years of age, and was fitted, by her childhood experiences, to become the wife of a pioneer farmer. She is a woman of far more than ordinary ability. Kindness of heart is one of her most noticeable traits. In all of her husband's labors she has been a most valuable helper. Throughout the locality of her home her name is a synonym for all that is noble and true. For sixty-six years she has watched the transformation of this section of the state from a wild country to a highly cultivated region, and, at the age of seventy-eight, retains her brightness and strength of mind, as well as activity of body, to a remarkable degree.

Mr. and Mrs. Barrows began their married life on a part of the claim originally made by Elijah Barrows. They then removed to Newark to assist Mr. Stowell, and, after an absence of two years, returned to the old homestead, where they resided until 1873. At that time they again located on the Stowell farm, which was their home until September, 1897, when they removed to Newark. Their son, Elmer E., now carries on the farm. During his active life Mr. Barrows gave his attention more to mechanical work than to farming. He was a superior carpenter, stone mason, plasterer and painter. He painted the first houses thus honored in both Newark and Millington, also the old hotel erected by Mr. Stowell in the former place and the residence of the late Fletcher Misner, of Millington. It will be recalled by the pioneers of Kendall County that Mr. Barrows was one of the few violinists of his locality, and no pioneer has forgotten with what constancy his services were in demand for a dozen miles around.

Of the nine children of Mr. and Mrs. Barrows three died in infancy. Allison S., who was a soldier in the Civil war, married Anna E. Wilsey; both he and his wife are dead, leaving one son, Frank D. Horace D., the fifth in order of birth, is an architect, carpenter and builder in Newark. George resides with his parents. Walter A., of Chicago, is an inventor. Carrie

E., the wife of Henry Johnson, died in Chicago September 28, 1880. As stated, Elmer E. operates the home farm. His wife was formerly Miss Ella Lutyen, of Whiteside County, Ill.

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**E**LIJAH BARROWS, deceased, who was a pioneer of Kendall County, was born in New Hampshire and from that state, in his youth, went to the front as a fifer in the war of 1812. In early manhood he went from Cheshire County, N. H., to Allegany County, N. Y., where he remained from 1822 to 1836. In company with another family he then started for the Fox River valley of Illinois, some of his friends having preceded him hither and sent back encouraging reports of the country. Progress by ox-teams was slow, so that the party was obliged to spend the winter (1836-37) at Niles, Mich. He was by trade a carpenter and joiner, and, previous to his departure for the west, had been proprietor of a large sash and door factory on the Genesee River. He was therefore well fitted for making his way in a new and progressive settlement. In January, 1837, he left Niles and started on the remainder of his journey, and arrived at Newark, Ill., February 5. The place was then a small settlement, consisting of one store, two blacksmith's shops and half a dozen houses. Of the people then residing in Newark all are dead but Mrs. Mary A. (Jones) Newton, who married Ami Newton, for years sheriff of Kendall County. She was then a little girl, making her home with her stepfather, George B. Hollenback, the merchant of Newark. The second oldest survivor of Newark is George D. Barrows, the second son of Elijah Barrows, and who at the time the family came here was a youth of eighteen.

Mr. Barrows bought a claim of six hundred acres in what was then LaSalle County. However, when Kendall County was formed and an accurate survey made, it was found that he had a title to only two hundred and fifty or three hundred acres. Although he began the improvement of his property, circumstances seemed



against him, and he finally relinquished his land to his children, with whom he made his home until his death, in 1885. In the early days he accomplished much in the building line, and is still remembered by the old settlers of Kendall County for his skill in all kinds of wood work. By his marriage to Serephina Daggett he had three children: Horace, who died in Kendall County in 1893; George D., whose sketch appears in this work; and Thaddeus, who died in Sandwich, Ill.

**JOHN AINSLEY BELL.** No more worthy representative of the progressive and thriving farmers of Kendall County can be found than John A. Bell, whose name appears at the head of this biographical sketch, his fine farm of two hundred and twenty-five acres, lying in Seward Township, being one of the best in regard to its appointments and improvements of any in the locality. A native of Chicago, Ill., he was born January 13, 1859, a son of James Bell.

James Bell was born April 23, 1822, in Glasslough, County Monaghan, Ireland, the son of William and Patience (Carl) Bell, both life-long residents of the Emerald Isle. In 1843 he married Susan Ferguson, who was born in March, 1822, in Scotland, but was taken by her parents to County Monaghan in infancy. Mrs. Ferguson was there killed by a runaway team, and Susan, then but four years old, was brought up by an aunt. Very soon after their marriage the young couple emigrated to America, arriving in New York City in August, 1844, with but seventy-five cents at their command. James Bell soon found employment with a Mr. Sawyer, a plumber, with whom he remained eleven years. Coming to Chicago in 1855, he located as a plumber at No. 143 Wells street, where he met with great success, continuing there until 1868, when, on account of failing health, he decided to change his occupation to that of farmer. He had there built up a good business, during the last three years of his stay having had the contract for keeping in repair the pipes controlled by the city

water works, employing from two hundred to three hundred men. His residence while there was at No. 43 Wisconsin street, near Lincoln Park, where he owned three lots, besides which he owned eighteen lots on Seventy-fifth street, near Fifth avenue, all of which are now in the possession of his heirs.

Before entirely closing out his Chicago business, Mr. Bell came to Kendall County on an investigating tour, and here, on sections 21 and 22, of Seward Township, he bought a tract of land containing six hundred and ten acres, which are now included in the farms of his sons, William A. Bell and John A. Bell, paying therefor \$35 an acre. The first year after locating on this farm with his family he stocked it with a good grade of cattle, and was engaged to a considerable extent in raising, feeding, buying and shipping stock, dividing his time between the farm and the city, where he was busy in closing out his plumbing interests. He subsequently devoted his entire time and attention to agricultural pursuits, including stock raising, until his sons were old enough to assume the management of the estate, when, in the spring of 1886, he retired to Minooka, where he resided until his death. He was an active and influential citizen in both the city and the country, but always refused public office except in connection with educational matters, in which he rendered valuable service. Progressive and enterprising, he erected a tile factory on his farm in 1882, and while living there carried on an extensive business in the manufacture of tile, it being afterwards continued by his sons until 1891. He was one of the organizers and directors of the Lisbon Home Mutual Insurance Company, and was active in the organization and support of the grange movement for the benefit of the agriculturists.

Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. James Bell nine children were born, as follows: Annie J., wife of J. S. Watson, M. D., of Minooka; Caroline S., wife of Alexander Bell, of Minooka; Emma P., of Minooka; Lottie, who died at the age of twenty-one years; Maggie, who died when fourteen years old; Jane, who died at the age of four years; William A., a prominent farmer and

stockman, residing on a portion of the old homestead; John A., the subject of this sketch; and James J., of Chicago. Mrs. Bell died in Minooka, September 9, 1889.

John A. Bell lived in Chicago until ten years old, and has since resided on the home farm. After leaving the city he continued his studies at the district schools, completing his education in the Morris high school. After reaching his majority he remained on the home farm, assisting in its management until the death of his father, and when the division of the estate was made, he came into possession of the two hundred and twenty-five acres of the homestead on which he has lived since coming to this township. By the exercise of his native ability and his good business capacity he has rendered it one of the finest properties in this vicinity, now having the rich land under cultivation, with many improvements of an excellent character. For the past ten years he has rented his farming land, and has devoted his attention to stock raising, feeding and dealing, carrying on an extensive and profitable business in this line of industry.

January 13, 1886, Mr. Bell married Helen Hall, who was born in Oswego, Ill., February 12, 1863, a daughter of David and Paulina R. (Wagner) Hall. Two children have been born of their union: Charlotte Duffy was born February 28, 1887, and died March 2, 1887, and James Hall, named for his two grandfathers, was born May 6, 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Bell are both active members of society, and their attractive and hospitable home is ever open to their numerous friends and acquaintances. Both are consistent members of the First Congregational Church of Seward, and both are officially connected with the Gregg Home Forum, No. 1311. Although Mr. Bell has strenuously avoided all public office, he did serve on the school board thirteen years, when he was succeeded by Mrs. Bell, who by reason of her four years' experience as a teacher in the schools of Yorkville and Aurora was especially qualified for the position. She has the distinction of being the first woman elected to the school board of Seward, but after serving faithfully three years she declined further

office, by which action the district was deprived of a most efficient factor in its educational interests.

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**C**HARLES WILLIAM BANKS. During an early period in the settlement of New England the Banks family came from England and settled in Maine, with the history of which state subsequent generations were identified. A visitor to the home of Mr. Banks in Kendall County may see among his pictures a large oil painting, which shows his grandfather and grandmother in the costume of their day, and her elegance of attire would indicate the social standing of the family as very high.

Mr. Banks was born April 13, 1837, at Saco, York County, Me., where his father, William P. Banks, owned a hotel. He was educated in the public schools. In 1856 he became an employe in a cotton factory, and there continued until 1884, when he removed to Illinois and identified himself with a cotton mill at Aurora. Eleven years later, desiring to enter an occupation that would enable him to spend his time out of doors, he severed his connection with the mill and bought a farm in Fox Township, Kendall County. This place consists of one hundred and sixty-four acres, of which one hundred and twenty-five are under the plow. Most of the work on the farm is done by hired help, Mr. Banks giving his attention only to its supervision. He is engaged in raising cattle, and buys and feeds for the market, and also has a large number of swine on his farm. At this writing he is engaged to some extent in the dairy business, and sends milk to the creamery at Yorkville.

Politically Mr. Banks is a Democrat. He is interested in educational work, and holds a position on the school board of his district. While in the east he was an officer in the Congregational Church, but has not been so active since coming to Illinois. His first wife died in Maine, leaving no children. While in Aurora he married Miss Frederica Hippe, of that city. They have two children, Deborah and Elsie.







*Ole L. Fosse*

## FOSSE BROTHERS.

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**F**OSSE BROTHERS, general merchants of Newark, are among the leading young business men of Kendall County, the firm consisting of Lewis O. and Andrew O. Fosse. Their father, Ole L. Fosse, was born at Fosse, in Bergen Stift, Norway, August 10, 1839, and came to America during the first year of the Civil war. He enlisted October 17, 1861, in Company H, Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Throughout the war he served chiefly as wagon-master. In battle, on the 17th of May, 1864, he received two musket balls in his hip and thigh, one of which he carried to the day of his death. His brothers, Stephen L. and Andrew Fosse, enlisted at the same time as he, and the latter was killed in the battle of Murfreesboro on the last day of the year 1862.

After an honorable service in the war Mr. Fosse was discharged, February 13, 1865. With Stephen L. Fosse, his brother, he settled in Chicago, where he established and developed the so-called "tailor's express." This consists in the transportation of goods from the merchant to the working tailors and the return of the manufactured clothing. The business now conducted by I. L. Fosse (who succeeded the founders) employs ten wagons and is steadily increasing. Mr. Fosse continued in the line mentioned until 1876, when he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Lisbon Township, and, although he made this his home, gave his attention to the buying and shipping of live stock from various points along the Rock Island and Burlington railroads. For five years, or until his death, he

was known as one of the most extensive dealers in live stock in that region. His death occurred June 6, 1881, from an attack of rheumatism, which he endured with rare fortitude for a period of thirteen weeks. He was interred in Helmar cemetery, with the honors due his character. Politically he was an influential Republican, but would never accept office. He was a member of the North Prairie Lutheran Church, and lived a moral, upright life, in keeping with his religious professions. In his worldly undertakings he was enterprising and successful.

The marriage of Mr. Fosse united him with Anna Lee, who was born in Oppeland, Norway, December 3, 1849, a daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Lee. She continued to reside on the farm for some years after his death, but removed to Newark in December, 1899, purchasing a home there, in which she now resides. Of her seven children, five survive, namely: Lewis O.; Lizzie, who resides with her mother; Andrew O.; Benjamin, a student in Beloit College, Wisconsin, now preparing for the legal profession; and Marie, who is connected with the business owned by her brothers in Newark. Two, named Lizzie and Marie (1st), died in childhood.

Lewis O. Fosse was born in Chicago, Ill., March 27, 1870; was reared on the home farm in Lisbon Township, and was educated in the common schools, at Naperville College and the Metropolitan Business College of Chicago. For about two years he was a bookkeeper in the employ of a Chicago firm and of his uncle, I. L. Fosse, who, as stated, had succeeded his father

in business. He then engaged in general merchandising at Millbrook, Ill., his partners being O. B. Larson and C. S. Williams. The firm continued in business two years, when Mr. Larson purchased the interests of his associates and Mr. Fosse remained with him over three years in a clerical capacity. In September, 1898, the firm of Fosse Brothers was formed, and our subject removed to Newark. Politically he is an active Republican, and is at present a member of the returning board. As trustee and treasurer he is officially connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church of Newark, and is assistant superintendent of the Sunday-school, in which his wife is a teacher and untiring worker. He is a charter member of Millbrook Camp, Modern Woodmen of America, but is now affiliated with Newark Camp, No. 963. His marriage took place September 7, 1898, and united him with Edna R. Bullard, who was born in Millbrook, a daughter of Edward and Mary (Morse) Bullard.

Andrew O. Fosse was born in Lisbon Township October 2, 1876, was reared on the old homestead and received a common-school education as well as practical business training as a clerk. For a year he was a partner of H. Court-right in a general store at Newark, under the title of Courtright & Fosse, after which he bought out his partner, and, after remaining in business alone a few months, formed the firm as it now exists. The stock consists of a well-selected supply of dry goods, clothing, furnishing goods, etc., in fact, everything that a general store should have; which fact, added to the geniality and courtesy of the proprietors, accounts for the satisfactory growth of the business. On Christmas, 1899, he married Mattie A., daughter of Nels O. and Bertha (Fritz) Holte. She was born in Fox Township, where her father was a large land owner, having two hundred and forty acres of choice land. Mr. Holte is now living in Newark, his farm being rented.

Mr. Fosse is one of the officers of Newark Camp No. 963, Modern Woodmen of America. He is a member of Helmar Lutheran Church, and is a stanch Republican in political principle. Mrs. Fosse was a student of vocal and instru-

mental music at the University of Wisconsin, having previously pursued a preparatory course at Valparaiso, Ind., and is a useful member of society in Newark. She is especially active in church and Sunday-school work.

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**G**RAHAM G. HUNT, proprietor of the Mini-ni-yan Springs at Bristol, was born in Connecticut December 20, 1829, and was eleven years of age when the family came to Illinois. His father, Reuben Hunt, in 1839 settled about ten miles south of Ottawa, Ill., but, thinking the location too remote, he made a trip of inspection through Minooka and adjacent points. Upon coming to Bristol he bought a claim of Nathaniel Burton. About forty acres consisted of prairie land and the remainder was heavily timbered, but was gradually cleared for the sake of the timber. He did not engage actively in farming, but took up the practice of law, having graduated from the Litchfield Law School in Connecticut. In 1853, when the railroad came through, he sold off much of his land in lots, for which he was paid from \$600 to \$800. He was active in local affairs, and served for many years as justice of the peace; also was county commissioner at the time that Kendall County was formed from Kane and LaSalle Counties. In politics he was first a Whig, later a Democrat of the Jeffersonian type. His death occurred in 1873, and his body was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, north of Bristol. Before leaving Connecticut he had married Emeline, daughter of Amos Hunt, a cousin. She died about ten years after his demise. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Graham G. is the only one now living in this township. He has two sisters in this county, Mrs. Lewis Steward and Mrs. Ellen Pepper. The oldest brother, Charles F., was running a boat between St. Louis and New Orleans at the outbreak of the Civil war and was impressed into the Confederate service, but escaped, and later was with General Banks and had command of the transport Iberville.

The Hunt family was founded in America by



an Englishman early in the seventeenth century. For many generations his descendants lived in Massachusetts, but four brothers, Amos, Salmon, David and Russell, moved to Salisbury, Conn., and engaged in iron manufacture there, manufacturing iron that was specially fitted for the making of car wheels. Their product brought twice the ordinary price of iron. While conducting this business Salmon Hunt and his nephew, our subject's father, manufactured the first wrought iron cannon ever made. It was welded from rings and carried a six-pound shot. When Reuben Hunt came west he brought it with him.

During the Revolution and the war of 1812 the family had representatives at the front, fighting for independence, and not a few of the name have attained prominence in the army. Governor Russell, of Massachusetts, is closely related to the Hunts, his mother and our subject's father being brother and sister. The mother of General Sedgwick, who was prominent in the Civil war, was also a sister of Reuben Hunt.

After completing his education in Warrenville Academy our subject went east and learned the cabinet-maker's trade, spending three years in one of the best shops in Connecticut. He then began work for himself. His specialty was the manufacture of organs and the making of reeds. In this work he invented many valuable attachments and parts. He patented the idea of making more than one set of reeds for one set of keys, but afterward sold the patent to Estey. In 1857 he returned to Illinois and spent three years, going back east in 1860 and entering the shop of Hotchkiss & Son in Sharon, Litchfield County, Conn. The firm engaged in the manufacture of hardware specialties until the outbreak of the war, when they turned their attention to the making of projectiles under the Hotchkiss patent for the government. At first these were faulty, but Mr. Hunt studied the matter carefully, remedied the defect, and afterward they worked successfully. In 1863 he took charge of the Bridgeport shops of the Hoosatic Railroad.

In 1865 Mr. Hunt returned to Illinois. When the Plano Manufacturing Company opened its

plant he went to Plano and became master mechanic there, remaining until the shop was removed to West Pullman. Since then he has operated his place near Bristol. In 1893 he discovered the spring here. The land was marshy and he had spent considerable money in tiling. One day he found a spring had broken through, throwing a stream as large as a man's wrist a foot above ground. Having suffered for ten years with rheumatism he tried this water, and in about six weeks had recovered sufficiently so that he could put on his coat. From that time on he improved rapidly, and since then he has, by means of this water, been able to cure many people similarly afflicted. The water is used for external applications, and ten minutes after a bath sufferers from acute rheumatism have been relieved. It has also made some wonderful cures in cases of running sores, and is especially curative in cases of nervous troubles. Being a combination of mineral water with gas, it is very effective, as the volatile properties of the gas are mainly curative.

The springs cover sixty-five acres. Mr. Hunt has put in a bottling establishment and ships the water in quantities to Aurora, Chicago, Yorkville and Plano. Pop is also manufactured, which is not only pleasant, but has curative properties as well. The name given the spring is Indian, meaning "Health-giving water." It is Mr. Hunt's plan to have a sanitarium here at no distant day, and should this idea be carried into execution he will without doubt reap financial success therefrom, at the same time be able to assist many hundreds of sufferers. All of the buildings on the place were erected under his supervision, excepting a part of an old structure that was built in 1844.

In addition to his ability in other directions Mr. Hunt is a thorough engineer. He was consulting engineer for the first water tunnel built in Chicago, and also consulting engineer for the firm that completed the Hoosac tunnel. To him is due the credit for the invention of the oil box now used by all railroads. He also invented a smoke consumer.

September 26, 1866, Mr. Hunt married Carrie

M. Botsford, of Seymour, Conn. They have three children now living, Susan Mabel, George Graham and Julia. Their first child, Reuben, is deceased. Mrs. Hunt is the youngest of the six children of Lyman and Mary Ann (Clark) Botsford. The father was a native of Winsted and the mother of Old Milford, Conn. Mr. Botsford was a machinist by trade and became a preacher of the Methodist faith in his later years. He was of English descent, a son of Charles Botsford. The eldest son of Lyman Botsford, Isaac Beach Botsford, is a stockholder in the Colt's Arms Company, of Hartford, and the other three sons are identified with the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Company.

**W**ILLIAM BEDFORD. The position which Mr. Bedford occupies is that of a pioneer and highly honored citizen of Kendall County, where he has made his home since 1848. He was born in Stockport, Cheshire, England, November 25, 1838, but spent his early childhood years near Manchester, where his father, William Bedford, worked in a cotton factory. In 1848 the family came to America on the sailing vessel Blanchard, which consumed six weeks and two days on the voyage, being greatly delayed by the loss of its main mast. After landing in New York they proceeded via canal to Buffalo, and from there on the lakes to Chicago. On account of the cholera they were not permitted to land in Chicago, so came on direct via canal to Morris. The father took up eighty acres of wild prairie land in Seward Township, which was the last piece of government land taken up in the township. As the land was wet and marshy, people laughed at him for attempting to improve it, but time has proved the wisdom of his act, for the farm is now as good property as is to be found in the township. He continued to reside on the place until his death, in August, 1860. In politics he was a Republican. For a long time he held office—justice of the peace. By his marriage to Sarah Wood he had eleven children, three of whom served in the Civil war.

When the family settled in Kendall County they were poor, and, as our subject was not old enough to be of much help in clearing the place, he hired out to a farmer who needed a boy. For two years he remained in Big Grove Township, after which he returned home to help his father, remaining with him until he was twenty-two. He then married and started out for himself, buying forty acres, which forms a part of his present homestead. Later he added another forty, and subsequently one hundred and twenty, so that he owned altogether two hundred and forty acres. Being energetic and industrious, and with the help of a wife who was also ambitious, he succeeded in making his way. At first he cut his grain with a cradle and bound by hand, marketing at Joliet, to which point he hauled the grain across the intervening prairie on sleds. Corn was planted by hand, covered with earth thrown by a hoe, shelled by hand and hauled in sacks to market. Hay was cut with a scythe. Some years after he settled on the place he became interested in the stock business, and still continues to raise cattle and swine.

Since the Republican party was organized Mr. Bedford has voted for its principles and candidates. He has been a delegate to county, senatorial and congressional conventions, and for some years has been a member of the county central committee. For two terms he served as collector, and for many years, at intervals, he held the position of assessor. Next he was constable four years, after which he was elected justice of the peace, an office which he still holds and in which he has served twenty-five years. Prior to 1892 he served nine years as supervisor, and in 1900 was again elected to the office. For a number of years he was chairman of the board. He has also been school trustee and director. The fact that he has been elected to so many local offices testifies to his high standing among his fellow-citizens.

Fraternally Mr. Bedford is a member of Minooka Lodge No. 528, A. F. & A. M., at Minooka, of which he has been master for nine years, and in that office he conferred the degree upon three of his sons. His wife, two daughters and two



sons and one daughter-in-law were charter members of the Eastern Star chapter at Minooka, and have been very active in its work. The lady whom he married March 6, 1860, bore the maiden name of Sarah Ann Bowden, and was the daughter of English parents, Thomas and Hannah (Fernley) Bowden. To their union were born seven children, viz.: William Henry, who resides on the eighty-acre tract taken up by his Grandfather Bedford, one-quarter mile distant from our subject's farm; George and Fred, who cultivate a part of the home place; Lizzie; Frank, who is a farmer just across the line in Grundy County; Ida; and Arthur, who works a portion of the homestead. The present value of Mr. Bedford's farm is largely due to his introduction of a system of drainage. As the land was marshy, he spent about \$2,000 in tiling and thus drained the land and greatly increased its productiveness. In 1890 he erected a residence and in 1899 added to it, the whole forming a complete and comfortable farm dwelling. All of the other improvements on the farm are also the product of his energy and progressive spirit.

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**S**IMON DICKSON, a representative farmer of Bristol Township, Kendall County, is a native of Half-Morton, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, his birth having occurred October 30, 1829. His father, Simon Dickson, Sr., sailed for America with his family in 1852, and for six weeks they were tossed to and fro upon the ocean. Upon their arrival upon these hospitable shores they located in Canada, where they resided seven years, being upon a farm about three years. The father, who became a permanent resident of Kendall County in 1859, died at his old home in March, 1878. His wife, formerly Isabella Thompson, also was born in the land of the thistle and heather, and their marriage was solemnized there in the early part of this century. Of their six children only our subject is an inhabitant of Illinois.

For twenty-two years Simon Dickson, Jr., dwelt in his native land and for a year subse-

quent to his arrival here aided his father in establishing his family in Canada and in the cultivation of the farm. In 1853 he came to the west, and after looking for a suitable place to locate permanently, he bought eighty acres in Kendall Township. Then, returning to his relatives, he spent the following two years in Canada. In 1858 he again came to Illinois, and after cultivating his property two years purchased another tract of two hundred acres, this land being situated in Bristol Township. He continued to operate this homestead until 1893, when he became the owner of his present farm of one hundred and seventy acres. In 1897 he leased his other farm to his son, and, as always, he carries on general farming and stock-raising.

In political faith Mr. Dickson is a stalwart Republican. He has taken an active interest in all public affairs, and for nine years served as a school director. Religiously he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and is a regular contributor to the various departments of its work.

The marriage of Mr. Dickson and Janet V. Patterson occurred March 27, 1860. Her father, Matthew Patterson, was born in Scotland, in which country he dwelt until 1835. He came direct to Illinois, where he was one of the early settlers. Here he took up under the homestead law the land where our subject and wife are now living, and this place he broke for cultivation by means of yoked oxen and a primitive plow. Neighbors at that day were few and little had been done in the way of improvement upon these vast prairies. His chief crop was wheat, and as the grain had to be laboriously hauled to Chicago with oxen, the trip taking five days, the profits realized were not large. Just before leaving Scotland he married Jane Conell; to them eight children were born, six of whom are yet living. The couple at first lived with a neighboring family in a log cabin, while he industriously built a house for them. The structure was especially substantial and desirable for that time and locality, for the timbers were hewed out in the forests near Aurora, the shingles were hauled from Chicago and hardwood was used almost exclusively.



Besides reducing his land to cultivation and rendering his homestead a valuable and beautiful place, Mr. Patterson, with true public spirit, assisted in building a number of the early school-houses in his locality, and served in a number of official capacities. He was a true-blue Republican, but was not a politician in the modern sense. He departed this life in April, 1890, when he was in his eightieth year, and his devoted wife, who died in 1880, was in her sixty-fourth year.

The wife of Mr. Dickson well remembers many interesting incidents of her childhood and youth in Kendall County and recalls that period when Indians were plentiful in this region and that they were quiet and peaceable. She also remembers the time when they were escorted to the new reservations to which they had been relegated. Of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Dickson the eldest son and daughter are deceased, namely: Isabella and William A. Ella M. is the wife of John Windett, of this township; Robert S. is carrying on the old homestead belonging to his father; and George M. is at home, aiding in the management of the place.

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**D**AVID HALL. A noted divine once said, "Never desert your own line of talent. Be what nature intended you for, and you will succeed; be anything else and you will be ten thousand times worse than nothing." That Mr. Hall fully appreciates that thought, is shown by his career, for he has made good use of the talents with which he was endowed, and has won for himself the esteem and respect of the community in which he resides. A resident of Oswego, Kendall County for nearly half a century, he has been engaged in crying sales for more than forty years, meeting with excellent success in his chosen vocation. Probably no auctioneer in this part of the state is more favorably known than he, or has cried more sales, or disposed of more property by sale than he, and during the past year, at the age of seventy-one, he officiated at more than forty sales.

He was born in Centerville, Hunterdon County, N. J., December 21, 1829, a son of John Hall. His father, a native of Hunterdon County, followed the trade of carpenter in New Jersey until 1851, when he came to Illinois, locating at first in the village of Oswego, as one of its early settlers. In 1852 he bought a tract of land containing ninety-seven acres in Specie Grove, Oswego Township, and later increased the size of his farm, by purchase, to one hundred and seventy acres. Here he was prosperously engaged in mixed husbandry until four years before his death, which occurred suddenly, from heart failure, December 16, 1884, in the village of Oswego. He married Gertrude Carkhuff, who was born, reared and married in Hunterdon County, N. J., and is now living in Oswego, at the advanced age of ninety-one years, a woman of remarkable mental and physical activity. Nine children were born into their household, as follows: David, the subject of this sketch; Asher B.; John K., of Oswego; Mary J., wife of Abraham Emmons, of Amboy, Ill.; Harriet A., unmarried, residing in Milwaukee, Wis.; Levi, of Oswego; Elizabeth, Mrs. W. T. Putt, who died in Oswego; Lavinia, wife of George White, city marshal of Oswego; and Ella, widow of the late Dr. Perkins, of Milwaukee, Wis. Asher B. Hall enlisted, in 1861, in the Fourth Illinois Cavalry, and remained in service until the close of the war, serving as quartermaster and first lieutenant. He was mustered out at Houston, Tex., where he was immediately appointed sheriff of Harris County, and later was elected to the same office, which he filled six years. He became largely interested in the sawmill and the mercantile business, both in Texas and Louisiana; and before his death, which occurred in February, 1898, had accumulated a competency.

David Hall having received a practical, common-school education remained beneath the parental roof until nineteen years of age, when he entered the employ of Ripley & Co., of Newark, N. J., where for two years he operated the stationary engine in their sawmill. In November, 1852, the day after casting his first presidential vote in favor of the Whig candidate, General

Scott, he started for Illinois, traveling by rail to Dunkirk, then across the lake to Cleveland, where he took the stage to Sandusky, Ohio, going from there by lake to Detroit, Mich., thence to Chicago via the Michigan Central Railway, coming from there to Oswego, where his father's family, with the exception of Asher B., had preceded him. Here he assisted his father in carrying on the farm until 1855, when he entered the employ of his brother, Asher B. Hall, who had established a grain and elevator business in Oswego. On the breaking out of the war he bought out the interest of his brother, who had enlisted, and continued the business alone until October 9, 1862, when he closed out. Since that time he has devoted the greater part of his time to auctioneering, in which he has acquired great popularity, and has achieved success.

In September, 1861, Mr. Hall married Paulina R. Wagner, who was born in Hillsborough, Highland County, Ohio, April 18, 1839, and died, February 18, 1893, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John A. Bell, in Seward Township. Mrs. Hall's parents were among the early pioneers of Oswego Township, where both spent the later years of their lives, Mr. Wagner's death occurring December 16, 1884, the same year as that of Mr. Hall's father, John Hall. The only child born to Mr. and Mrs. Hall, Nellie Hall, was for many years a popular and successful teacher of Kendall and neighboring counties, having taught until her marriage to John A. Bell, of Seward Township, of whom a sketch may be found elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Hall was a Whig in his earlier years, but from the formation of the Republican party until the present day has been a zealous worker in the Republican ranks, and since coming to Oswego has served continuously in some official capacity. For a long while he was constable; was assessor more than twenty years; was deputy sheriff of the county one term; commissioner of highways twelve years; an alderman of Oswego several years; has been city marshal; and, at the time the high school building was erected, was a member of the school board. He is interested to a considerable extent in Oswego property, owning

several lots and buildings. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic order, and until the dissolution of the Odd Fellows' lodge of Oswego, was one of its active members.

THOMAS T. FLETCHER. Few residents of Kendall County are unfamiliar with the name of Mr. Fletcher, for he is one of its largest land owners, and a leading resident of Lisbon Township. In addition to his property and stock-feeding interests, Mr. Fletcher is also a frequent contributor to and correspondent of newspapers. As a writer he is forceful and earnest, especially when the subject is one he feels to be vitally important, affecting the welfare of his fellow-citizens. His felicitous manner of expressing his thoughts through the medium of the press has often been mentioned and admired.

Mr. Fletcher was born on the homestead of his father, Thomas Fletcher, Sr., June 4, 1860. He was educated in common schools, Jennings Seminary of Aurora and the Morris Normal School. After leaving school he spent one year in travel and then returned home. When twenty-three years of age he began farming for himself on the old homestead, where he continued six years, but then disposed of his interests in the place and removed to Chicago, to engage in the real-estate business. While making his home in Chicago he was united in marriage, June 2, 1892, with Miss Ida, daughter of Calvin and Mary (McKee) Armstrong. A son blesses their union, and he bears the name of his father and grandfather, with, however, a slight variance in the middle initial, his name being Thomas A. Mrs. Fletcher was one of four children and descends from Ohio pioneers. Her paternal grandfather, Thomas Armstrong, was an officer in the war of 1812 and afterward became a wealthy land owner in Wayne County, Ohio.

One year after his marriage Mr. Fletcher returned to Kendall County, in order that he might personally superintend his large interests in this locality. He owns about eight hundred acres in Lisbon Township, which he leases, also three



hundred acres in Kendall Township, and city property in Chicago. Besides the management of his landed interests he is engaged in feeding stock. In politics he is a Republican. He attends the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Mrs. Fletcher is a member. A progressive and liberal man, he favors all measures for the benefit of the county and the development of its resources.

**F**REDERICK JOHN BEANE. Few men who have lived in Kendall County have won the unqualified esteem and warm friendship of the people to so great a degree as did Mr. Beane, who for years made his home in Seward Township. Coupled with his acknowledged ability as a farmer were qualities of manhood that endeared him to many. He was an honorable and upright man, genial and companionable, and his memory will long be cherished among those who were his associates in former years.

A native of Norfolk, England, Mr. Beane was twelve years of age when his parents crossed the ocean in 1840 and settled in Oswego, Ill., where for a time his father operated a grist mill. As soon as he attained his majority he came to Seward Township and bought a tract of farm land. As he prospered, he added to his holdings until he was one of the large land-owners of the township. Besides raising the various cereals, he devoted considerable attention to the stock business and had on his place large numbers of cattle and swine. Every year he fed large herds of cattle and shipped them to market. He was a man of such sound judgment that he was prospered where another might have failed.

From boyhood until his death Mr. Beane was a Republican in political principle, believing that the principles of that party are best calculated to secure the perpetuation of our institutions. During the earlier part of his life he was a member of the Methodist Church, but later affiliated with the Presbyterians. Failing health rendered a change of climate necessary and some eight years before he died he removed to California,

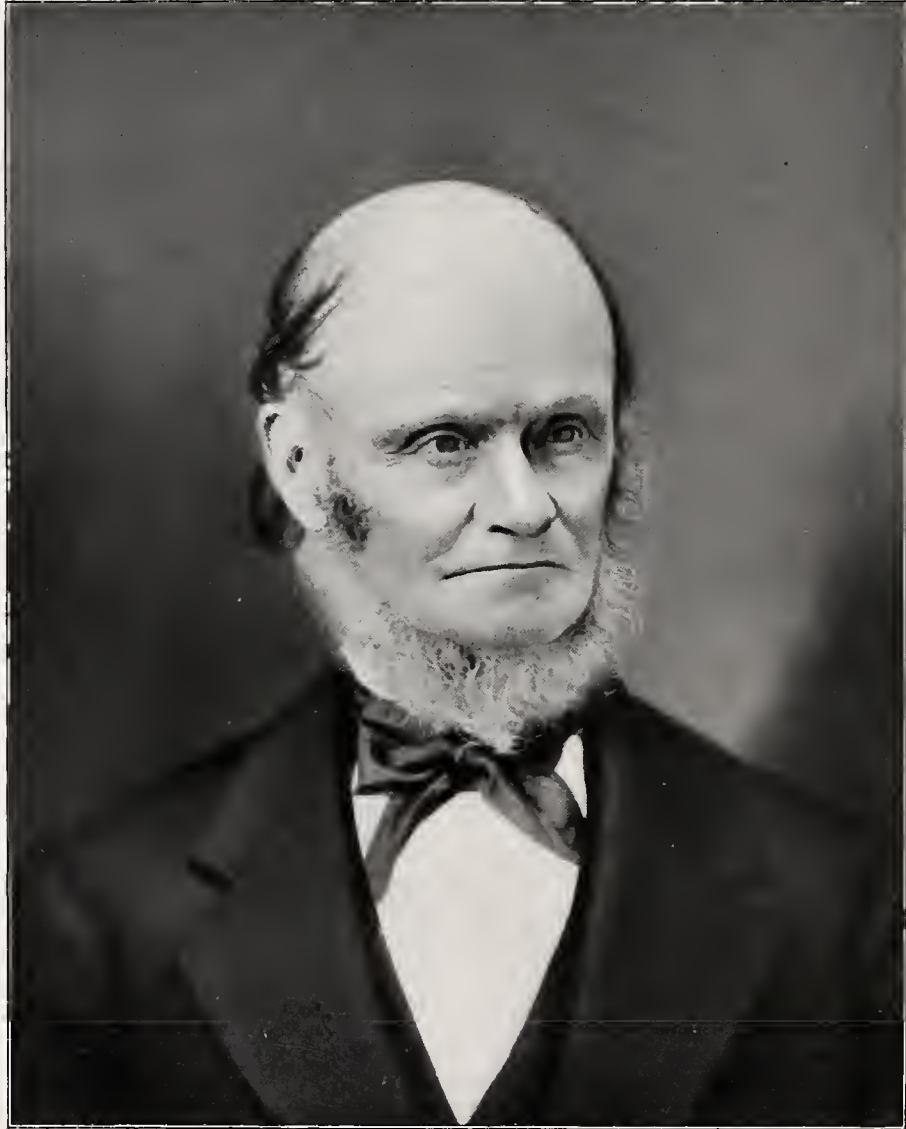
in order that he might receive the benefits of that climate. There he died in December, 1895. By his marriage to Elizabeth Walley he had five children, three of whom are living, namely: Arthur L., of Chicago; Wallace C., of Kendall County; and Ettie E., wife of Archibald Wylie, of Waterloo, Iowa.

**W**ALLACE COOK BEANE, a farmer residing in Seward Township, is one of the enterprising young men of Kendall County, and is carrying forward the work so well started by his father. He was born April 5, 1857, on the farm where he now resides, his parents being the late Frederick J. Beane and Elizabeth Beane, née Walley. His boyhood was passed in a comparatively uneventful manner. Attendance at school was alternated with work on the farm, and early in life he acquired a thorough knowledge of every detail connected with the management of a farm. When twenty-one years of age he went to California and spent the next year with his father there, meantime giving his attention to the carpenter's trade. Upon his return to Illinois he worked in Chicago for a year. His first independent venture as a farmer was in 1890, when he began the cultivation of an eighty-acre tract, upon which place he remained five years. From there he returned to the old homestead of the family, which he took upon the division of the estate among the heirs. Since then he has devoted himself to the cultivation of the land and also to the stock business, which he has found a profitable adjunct of farming. He has a number of Shorthorn cattle and raises stock for the market, although he also does a certain amount of dairying.

The political views of Mr. Beane bring him into affiliation with the Republican party. Fraternally he is a member of Yorkville Lodge No. 839, I. O. O. F., and the Modern Woodmen of America at Plattville. He is one of the stockholders of the hall at Plattville. In April, 1897, he was united in marriage with Ida, daughter of Robert Heald, of this county. They have one son, Forest Beane.







*Thomas Fletcher*

THOMAS FLETCHER.

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THOMAS FLETCHER. For many years one of the most respected citizens of Lisbon Township, Kendall County, was Thomas Fletcher, who settled here at an early period as a laboring man, and by honest effort and good judgment accumulated a competency that enabled him to spend his closing years in leisure. Mr. Fletcher was born in Booth, Lancashire, England, April 7, 1817, and died March 27, 1889, in Morris, Ill. His parents were Richard and Jane (Coop) Fletcher. When he was a child of six years the father went to London to take a government position, and he was brought up by his grandparents, who early instilled into his mind those habits of industry and thrift that formed the basis of his character. He was the eldest of a family of six children, the record of the others being as follows: Joseph, who lived in Lisbon Township about thirteen years after coming to America, subsequently removed to Ford County, Ill., where he died in 1874, leaving five children; Lawrence, who emigrated to this country in 1864 or 1865, spent a year in Kendall County, Ill., then removed to Zanesville, Ohio, and later returned to England, where he now resides; Mary was the wife of John Ashworth, of England, and is now deceased; Elizabeth, who is unmarried, has never left her early home in England; and Edward, who sailed for America, was lost at sea. The five children of Joseph Fletcher, deceased, are as follows: Thomas, a large landowner and influential citizen of Ocheyedan, Osceola County, Iowa; Jennie, who married Israel Thompson, a well-to-do business man of Melvin, Ill., and has one daughter, Katie; Anna, who married John Tidman, formerly of Ford County, Ill., but now

of Iowa Falls, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Cooper, of Ford County; and Lillian, who married Charles Buchholz, of Melvin, Ill.

After attending school for a number of years, Thomas Fletcher was industriously employed in his youthful days in farming and teaming, and later in freighting manufactured goods from Manchester to other towns. In October, 1840, he emigrated to America, landing in New York City, where he found employment with a dairyman at \$8 a month and board. When ready to leave him, at the end of eighteen months, he received wages at the rate of \$12 per month, and on account of his faithful and satisfactory services was offered an interest in the business if he would remain. Coming from there to Kendall County in the spring of 1842, he had been here but a little while when he entered forty acres of government land on section 8, and shortly after that embraced an opportunity to buy an adjoining claim of eighty acres, which had logs cut and hauled to build a cabin, paying \$2.50 an acre for the land. Locating on this homestead in 1844, he improved the land and engaged in general farming and stock-raising, making this a nucleus around which he gathered a fine estate. Possessing a rugged physique and a remarkable energy, he wasted no time nor opportunity to honorably advance his interests. Although he had but limited educational advantages in his youth, his native ability and fine intellectual capacity enabled him to store his mind with a vast amount of sound practical information, which he gleaned by reading and observation. Honest and conscientious to a marked degree, he achieved a great success in his undertakings by means of



straightforward methods, steady perseverance and good management, accumulating an estate of fifteen hundred acres of choice land in Lisbon Township, besides large properties in other states. In 1881 he purchased a residence in Yorkville, where he remained three years, when, on account of property and banking interests, he removed to Morris, Ill., where he resided until his demise. His widow survived him but a few weeks, dying April 22, 1889, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Somers, in Cleveland, Ohio, whence her body was brought to Illinois and laid to rest beside that of her husband in Lisbon cemetery.

In politics Mr. Fletcher was a Whig in earlier life, but from the formation of the Republican party was one of its strongest adherents. A close student of the bible, he was well versed in biblical lore, and was a faithful and consistent member of the Lisbon Center Methodist Episcopal Church, which he assisted in organizing, and afterward served for many years as a member of the official board, a steward, a class-leader, and as teacher and superintendent of its Sunday-school. He was noted for his benevolence and generosity, being especially kind to the unfortunate, and contributed largely to the support of worthy institutions, among other of his liberal donations having been a bequest of \$3,000 to the George Smith Colored Industrial College of Moberly, Mo. Mr. Fletcher was a man who rather shrank from public observation, and disliked all false show or pretension.

Mr. Fletcher was twice married. His first wife, whose maiden name was Mary Skinner, lived but a few weeks after the solemnization of their union. In October, 1849, he married Rebecca, daughter of Samuel and Martha (Milner) Naden, and a sister of John Naden, of whom a sketch may be found elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher became parents of seven children, namely: Mary, who died at the age of four years; Martha, wife of Orestes Booth, of Evanston, Ill.; Sarah, wife of Philip Clark, of Chicago; Edwin S., a prominent agriculturist of Kendall County; Fannie, wife of Horace Somers, M. D., of Chicago, a practicing physician and a

lecturer in medical colleges; Annie, who lived but two years; and Thomas, a well-known citizen and prosperous farmer of Lisbon Township.

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**T**HEODORE CARL GABEL. A representative agriculturist of Kendall County, Mr. Gabel is a well-known resident of Lisbon Township, where his fine and well-appointed farm, lying on section 2, gives substantial evidence of the excellent care and skill with which it is managed. Mr. Gabel is a son of J. Henry and Annie K. (Betz) Gabel, and was born April 1, 1857, in the old log house situated on his father's homestead on section 15, Kendall Township. His father, who was an honored citizen of Kendall County, settled here a half century ago and was afterward associated with the development of the country. He was born in Nassau, Germany, October 30, 1813, and in early manhood married Annie K. Betz, who was also born in Germany, her birth having occurred March 20, 1816. For a number of years he followed the trade of a wagonmaker. Being a man of industrious and persevering disposition he desired to buy a farm, but there was no land in his immediate vicinity for sale. It was for this reason that he decided to emigrate to the United States. In the fall of 1850 he crossed the ocean, arriving in New York after a voyage of three weeks. Thence he proceeded to Chicago via river, canal and the great lakes. Settling first near Somonauk, Ill., he invested most of his capital in an eighty-acre tract of land. Five years later he became the owner of a quarter section of land in Kendall Township, Kendall County. For years he engaged in raising grain, which he sold in the markets of Joliet and Lockport. For a time he was an officer in the Mutual Insurance Company. Interested in educational matters, he held the position of school director, which he filled with wisdom and fidelity. He was a member of the Lutheran Church, and died, firm in his faith, December 5, 1880; his wife passed away April 13, 1888. Of their ten children only four are

living, those besides Theodore C. being Augustus C., who occupies the old homestead; Henry G., a practicing physician in Aurora; and Lewis J., a farmer of Kendall Township.

During the winters Theodore C. Gabel attended the district schools of his boyhood. Early in life he began to assist in the pioneer labor of clearing a farm from the wilderness. Working with ambitious energy he felled trees, upturned the sod, planted the seed and in harvest time assisted in reaping the crops, in this manner becoming familiar with the various details of agriculture while yet young. But not the least important part of his home training were the lessons in honesty, thrift and industry which his worthy parents instilled into his mind both by precept and practice. At the age of twenty years he began the battle of life on his own account, his father giving him a pair of horses, a wagon and harness to commence with. In company with his brother, Augustus C., he rented the home farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and there engaged in farming until the death of his father. Shortly afterward, in 1881, the estate was settled, and he and his brother, A. C., bought out the interests of the other heirs, after which they continued together until the marriage of Theodore C. in 1886. The latter then sold to his brother his interest in the homestead and bought eighty acres of his present farm on section 2, Lisbon Township. In 1891 he bought another eighty acres of adjoining land, this giving him a good-sized farm to operate. The investment was not considered a very good one, as the place had been allowed to run down through poor management.

With characteristic skill and forethought Mr. Gabel began the arduous labor of improving the place. He has put in nineteen hundred rods of tile, varying the size from three to twelve inches. In 1890 he erected his commodious and well-arranged barn. Under his able supervision the estate is now one of the most fertile, productive and attractive to be found in this locality, and its equipments are of the best. He carries on general farming, but makes a specialty of cattle-

raising. In 1883 he embarked in the breeding and raising of Shorthorn cattle in company with his brother. On the division of their interests he took the entire lot of thoroughbred cattle. In his efforts to improve his stock he has spared neither care or expense. His fine bunch of animals is known as the Pine Lawn herd, taking its name from his homestead, which is called Pine Lawn farm. In the herd are the following named families: (Imported) Young Phyllis, (Imported) Lady Elizabeth, (Imported) Young Mary, and others, at the head being Springdale, bred by Green Brothers, of Indianola, Ill.; Lilly Lewis and Helen Bly, bred by J. B. Cottingham & Son, Eden, Ill., all being from imported sires. Among other choice animals in his possession is the Grand Duchess of Gloster, F. 10th, bred by A. A. Francis, New Lenox, Ill.

The marriage of Mr. Gabel took place February 22, 1886, and united him with Mary M., only child of Charles and Priscilla (Kimble) Evans. Her father died in 1860, shortly after her birth. December 15, 1875, her mother became the wife of N. B. Worsley, who died January 31, 1876. Since 1887 Mrs. Worsley has made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Gabel. A native of Prince Edward Island, Mrs. Worsley was one of a family of eight children, whose parents were James and Priscilla (Frise) Kimble, of Dover and Plymouth, England, who led very eventful lives. They were married in Plymouth, and about two years afterward, Mr. Kimble being a stone-cutter and builder, was sent by the government to Ascension Island to build a reservoir to hold the rain water that fell only twice a year, that being the only means of supplying the inhabitants with fresh water. Two years later Mrs. Kimble followed him, leaving their oldest child with its grandparents. They lived there seven years, during which time two children were born to them; and Mr. Kimble made Napoleon Bonapart's tombstone which was taken to St. Helena. From Ascension Island they returned to England, and after ten weeks they went to Prince Edward Island, where they lived fourteen years. Five children were born to them



while there. In 1845 they came to Chicago by steamboat and thence by wagons to Kendall County, where they bought a farm in Na-au-say Township.

In 1849 Mr. Kimble went to California, where he remained about eighteen months and made about \$2,000, but was robbed by a berthmate on the vessel coming home and recovered only about \$500. He lived about a year on his Na-au-say farm, then sold out and went to Peoria, taking a contract to build the first railroad through Peoria. After five years in Peoria he returned to Kendall County and bought the farm now owned by Mr. Gable; the land was at that time (1853) a piece of prairie, out of which he made a comfortable home. Mrs. Kimble died in 1873, aged seventy-two years. In 1876 he sold his farm, after which he lived with the families of his children as the fancy suited him. In 1888 he went to Farwell, S. Dak., where he died at the home of his son, James, Jr., in 1892, aged ninety-two. He was a finished workman at his special trade, and was strictly honest in all dealings with his fellowmen.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Gabel has been brightened by two children, namely: Carl B., born May 26, 1889, and Hazel P., born March 9, 1891. The son is a partner of his father in the breeding of high-class Shorthorn cattle, the firm name being T. C. Gabel & Son.

A man of the greatest integrity, Mr. Gabel well merits the esteem in which he is held. He has used his best endeavors to raise the standard of education, believing that to be the only means of improving and advancing the mental and moral attainments of the race.

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**S**AMUEL COONEY. On the road from Plano to Yorkville may be seen the valuable farm owned by Mr. Cooney, who is one of the reliable farmers of Little Rock Township. During the long period of his residence in Kendall County he was witnessed the gradual transformation of the country from a raw prairie into one of the fine farming regions of Illinois. He remembers

the days when grain was cut with a cradle and bound by hand, and when farm implements were crude and scarce. Those days, fortunately, are long gone by, and in their stead we have fine machinery and every facility for rendering farm work easy and pleasant.

Mr. Cooney was born in Cherry Valley, Perry County, Pa., May 12, 1829. His father, Daniel Cooney, a native of Pennsylvania, lived for a time in New York, and thence moved to Cuyahoga County, Ohio, settling in the midst of a wilderness. For four years he devoted his attention to clearing a tract of land there. In 1839 he drove through to Illinois with a team of oxen. He bought a claim of one hundred acres in Oswego and pre-empted another tract of the same size. A portion of the land was already under the plow, but far the larger part was in its primeval condition, and it was his task to place the land under cultivation. At first he hauled his wheat to Chicago, by no means an easy task. Later, however, the railroad was introduced, and shipments were made with less difficulty. He spent the balance of his life on this farm, and died there in 1868. In religion he was connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in politics a Democrat. While living in Pennsylvania he married Rebecca Faust, a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent. They had eight children, all but two of whom still survive, Samuel being the fifth of the family. His education was very limited. The residence of the family on the frontier, remote from good schools, rendered systematic attendance at school an impossibility. His time was given almost wholly to farm work. When eighteen years old he began to learn the blacksmith's trade, which he followed for three years. He then went to Na-au-say Township and bought one hundred and sixty acres, which he began to cultivate and improve. For ten years he made his home on that place, and then sold out and settled in Little Rock Township, at his present home. Besides raising farm products he has a number of Jersey cattle and makes large quantities of fine butter, for which he finds a ready market in Plano.

In Oswego Township, Kendall County, Janu-



ary 16, 1855, Mr. Cooney married Mary A. Ernst, whose family history appears in the sketch of her brother, George W. Ernst. They have three children, viz.: Ida E., wife of Erwin Steele, who is operating the homestead in Bristol Township; Mary Emma; and Charles E., who is on the home farm. Mr. Cooney has always voted with the Democrats and adheres faithfully to the principles of the party.

JOSEPH PLATT BROWN. America justly takes pride in her citizens who have succeeded in making a place of respect and influence, in spite of adverse circumstances and environments. In tracing the history of Mr. Brown it is plainly apparent that he has been one of these independent, brave souls, and too much credit cannot be paid to him.

Coming of the sturdy, loyal Vermont pioneer stock, the noble principles of his ancestors are inherent in his nature. His parents, Charles and Nancy Jane (Ames) Brown, were married in their native state, Vermont, and to them eight sons and one daughter were born. After carrying on a farm in the Green Mountain state for several years, the father went to Albany, N. Y., where he was engaged in the grocery business for a period. Later he located in the heavily timbered district of St. Lawrence County, same state, and, after clearing a fifty-acre tract of land which he had bought there he purchased and cleared another fifty acres. His busy and useful career was brought to a close at his old home in the Empire state, and both he and his faithful wife died as they had lived, firm in the Lutheran faith.

The birth of Joseph P. Brown occurred on the old parental homestead in Morristown, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., September 23, 1831. His educational facilities, as may be inferred, were of a limited description, and the primitive school house where he attended was built of logs and furnished with puncheon benches and floor. He learned to wield an axe in the forest when he was quite young and was of great assistance to his

father in the arduous task of clearing away the timber on the home farm. When he arrived at majority he concluded to try his fortunes in Illinois, and, proceeding by the St. Lawrence river to Buffalo, he there embarked in a boat bound for his destination. During the ensuing three years he worked at lumbering and farming, and by extreme economy and industry managed to save about \$1,000 from his earnings.

In 1853 young Brown invested a portion of his funds in eighty acres of land in Na-au-say Township. The land was unbroken prairie, and after plowing a tract of twenty-seven acres he sowed wheat and was fortunate in raising seven hundred bushels. He entered into a contract with Mr. Norton, of Lockport, to deliver this product at the rate of \$1 a bushel, and when he had turned over half of the crop to the purchaser he was informed that as the market price had fallen to ninety cents, he would have to deliver the rest at that rate, which he was obliged to do. From time to time he bought more land until the boundaries of his homestead included three hundred and forty acres, and one hundred acres of this he has bestowed upon his two daughters. For many winters he made a business of feeding cattle, and also has been successful in fattening sheep. He has instituted numerous substantial improvements and the fine condition of every rod of fence on the place is especially noticeable. He was the first man on this ridge to commence placing tiling for draining land, and his wisdom in this direction is beyond question. With his accustomed thoroughness, he procured fine kiln-dried lumber for his house, which he erected in 1875, and to-day it is in an excellent condition.

Politically Mr. Brown is a Republican. For ten years he served as a trustee of the Congregational Church, but resigned in 1899. He had served as a member of the building committee and was of material aid in the erection of the church edifice. For thirteen years he officiated on the local school board, and in various ways has borne his full share in the affairs of this community for more than two-score years.

In October, 1857, Mr. Brown married Mary Jane Bronk, a daughter of Ephraim Bronk, one

of the pioneers of this locality, elsewhere mentioned in this volume. Joseph Ira, only son of our subject and wife, now has the chief management of the old homestead, and is a valued citizen of this township. Cecelia, who is the wife of George Bennett, lives in this district; and Hattie, Mrs. Sidney Morgan, resides in Elwood Township, Will County.

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**N**ELSON D. SWEETLAND, M. D. In the list of pioneers of Kendall County conspicuous mention belongs to Dr. Sweetland, who was one of the very earliest settlers of Newark. While few now living remember him (for it has been many years since his death), yet the influence of his life has not perished. A man of great energy and determination, the possession of these qualities fitted him for the conduct of his practice in the midst of a frontier existence of hardships and dangers. He took an active part in the affairs of his community and filled various local offices, to which he was elected by his party, the Democratic. Though not a member of any denomination, he was a believer in and a supporter of the Gospel, and was a man universally beloved and respected.

Born and reared in Dryden, Tompkins County, N. Y., Dr. Sweetland early took up the study of medicine and graduated from Fairfield Medical College, the institution which is the alma mater of the eminent Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago. After graduating he practiced for a few years in western New York. In 1839 he came to Illinois and settled in LaSalle County, where his father, Col. Bowen Sweetland, had purchased land. After a stay of one year in that county he returned to his native county and married Huldah A. Laning, a cousin of Franklin Pierce and a daughter of Rev. Ralph and Anna (Pierce) Laning. Her father was a pioneer minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, belonging to the Oneida conference in New York. Her brother, Albert P. Laning, an able attorney, was senior member of the law firm of Laning, Folsom & Cleveland, of Buffalo, N. Y., which firm became widely known through Grover Cleveland's connection with it. In the war of

1812 Benjamin Laning, a brother of Rev. Ralph Laning, was captured by the British in Canada.

After his marriage Dr. Sweetland brought his wife to Illinois, settling in the embryo village of Newark and building one of its first houses. He continued to reside there until his death, August 1, 1849. Almost fifty years later (March 2, 1899) his wife passed away. Their children, Albert M. and Huldah A., still occupy the old homestead. An older son, Nelson L., is a practicing physician and also resides in Newark.

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**A**LBERT MONTGOMERY SWEETLAND. Among the young men of our country there has ever been noticeable a desire to leave the old home and seek friends and fortune in distant regions. There are few who remain during their mature years in the town where they were reared, and yet it has sometimes been found by those who leave the old homestead that they leave behind them all they went to seek. In the list of native-born sons of Kendall County who have been content to spend their active years amid the associations of youth, and who have attained success in so doing, the name of State's Attorney Sweetland belongs.

Mr. Sweetland was born in Newark March 17, 1846, a son of Dr. N. D. Sweetland, whose sketch precedes this. He was given good educational advantages. Upon completing the common-school studies he entered Northwestern University at Evanston, where he studied for a time. In 1870 he graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan. Returning to his home town he at once began the practice of his profession, in which he has since engaged. For the past twenty-four years, with the exception of an interval of four years, he has served continuously as prosecuting attorney of Kendall County, being re-elected in 1900, which fact of itself proves the satisfactory nature of his service. A staunch Republican in politics, he has taken an active part in public affairs and has represented his party in various county, congressional and state conventions, and has served two terms as village trustee. He was a charter member of Newark Lodge, A.



F. & A. M. (now out of existence), and is connected with Sandwich Chapter, R. A. M.

In the spring of 1865, when he was eighteen years of age, Mr. Sweetland enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Forty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, as fourth sergeant, under General Payne. He was ordered to Columbus, Ky., and served until the close of the war. In the fall of 1865 he was mustered out at Camp Fry, Chicago. He is now a member of Yorkville Post, G. A. R.

The only sister of Mr. Sweetland is a portrait artist of ability, possessing a skill that has brought her the commendation of connoisseurs. She obtained her education at Evanston and at Newark, being one of the graduates of Fowler Institute under the tuition of Prof. A. J. Anderson. At the age of eighteen she entered the private studio of the celebrated portrait artist, Mrs. S. H. St. John, of Chicago, remaining under her tuition for eleven years. It had been her expectation to make art her life work, but the failing health of her mother rendered her presence at home necessary, and she consequently gave up her cherished hopes. Her private collection of her own work contains many of rare merit, worthy of a prominent place in art galleries, where they would without doubt receive merited notice and appreciation.

**N**ELSON L. SWEETLAND, M. D. This well-known practicing physician of Newark was born at the old family homestead in this place May 28, 1843. His education was begun in local schools and further continued in Northwestern University, where he took the classical course. During his collegiate life the Civil war broke out and he determined to enlist. As soon as possible he entered the army. May 16, 1864, his name was enrolled as a member of Company F, One Hundred and Forty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, of which he was elected second lieutenant and which he assisted materially in organizing. The company was under Captain Barber and the regiment under Colonel Bronson. They engaged in guard and fort duty principally in Kentucky, and were mustered out October 10, 1864.

Upon being honorably discharged the subject of this article entered upon the study of medicine, first under private preceptorship and later in Rush Medical College, from which he graduated with the class of 1867. Returning to Newark he opened an office and began professional practice. He remained here until 1875, when he removed to Rantoul, Ill., where he carried on a drug business for a year. On selling out the business he traveled in this state and Indiana, making a specialty of the treatment of rectal diseases. Meantime he made Rantoul his home. In 1878 he came back to Newark, where he has since conducted a general practice, but still giving particular attention to his specialty, in which he has met with phenomenal success.

Fraternally Dr. Sweetland was a charter member of Newark Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of which he was past master. He is also a charter member of Lodge No. 963, A. O. U. W. His marriage took place June 1, 1887, and united him with Jennie, daughter of John and Anne (McDougal) Brodie, all natives of Scotland.

**C**APT. EDWIN BROWN, an honored veteran of the Civil war, now living at Millington, was born in Ellery, Chautauqua County, N. Y., February 12, 1835, a son of David and Mary (Brownell) Brown. His father, who was a native of Dutchess County, N. Y., learned the trades of shoemaker, tanner and currier in his boyhood, and in early manhood drove in a sleigh from Troy to Chautauqua County, accompanied by his wife and one child. There he followed his trades and cleared and cultivated a tract of farm land. In 1844 he went via the lakes to Chicago, thence proceeded to Kendall County. After having looked over the country in search of a suitable location he selected some land in the town of Big Grove. The following year he brought his family here, traveling all the way by wagon. The land that he selected was a claim taken up by Dr. Gilman Kendall, after whom the county was named. It consisted of one hundred and forty acres. By birthright Mr.



Brown was a Quaker. In politics he affiliated with the Whigs. When only one month less than one hundred years of age, in February, 1893, his death occurred on his Kendall County homestead. The lady whom he married in Rensselaer County, N. Y., and who was the daughter of a Quaker preacher, died February 14, 1877. Their bodies lie in Newark cemetery, at Millington. Their three sons and three daughters are as follows: Isaac, a resident of San José, Cal.; Simeon, who lives in Big Grove Township; Sarah, who died in the state of Washington; Mary A., the widow of William Scofield and a resident of Millington; Edwin; and Phœbe Darling, a resident of Colorado.

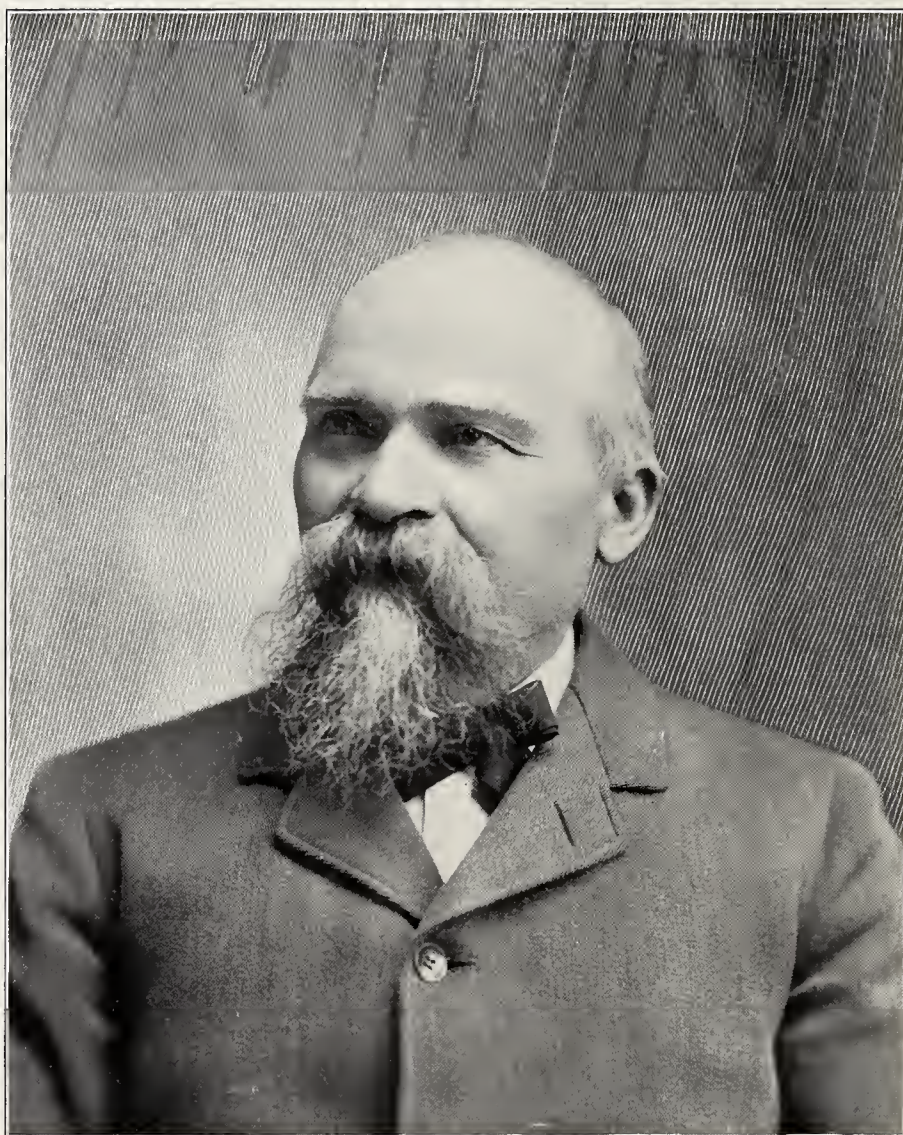
When the family came to Kendall County the subject of this article was ten years of age. The first railroad he ever saw was at Toledo, Ohio, and he well remembers the ride on a hand-car which he was given there. After more than a month on the highway, traveling in an open lumber-wagon, the family reached their destination. The house they lived in (built by Dr. Kendall) was the first frame building erected in the county, and had shingles both on the roof and the sides. The school which our subject attended was held in a log building, 30 x 40 feet on the ground, with slab seats, puncheon floor, and the other appurtenances of pioneer existence. This room served not only as a schoolhouse, but also as a church. When not in school our subject aided in the cultivation of the farm. In 1860 he went east, and at Middlebush, N. J., married Miss Cathalina Vreeland. During this trip he saw the Star of the West returning from Fort Sumter. Immediately after the battle of Bull Run he enlisted in Company E, Ninety-first Illinois Infantry, and was mustered into the army at Springfield, Ill., from which point the regiment was ordered to Kentucky to relieve Louisville and guard railroad bridges. In 1862 he was captured by the Confederates, who, however, being in the rear of the Federals, could not get their prisoners to Andersonville; hence took them to Shepardsville, where they were paroled. On rejoining his regiment he was sent to Vicks-

burg. His regiment was detailed to accompany General Banks to New Orleans. From there they started up the Red River, but were ordered instead to Brazos, Santiago, Tex., where they had a four-cornered battle, participated in by French, Mexicans, Confederates and Federals. An attack of sunstroke at Morganza, which rendered him unfit for further service, caused him to be honorably discharged. As he came up north from New Orleans on a boat the vessel was fired upon by the Confederates, and the lives of the passengers endangered. At the beginning of his enlistment Mr. Brown was commissioned first lieutenant, and when the company left Kentucky he was made captain, after which he commanded his company, which he had always drilled as long as he remained in the service.

On his return from the army Captain Brown attempted to cultivate a farm, but his army service left him in no condition for outdoor work, and he therefore embarked in the livery business at Sandwich. Later he returned to the home farm. In 1875 he became a commission merchant in Chicago, where he remained until 1898, meantime becoming well known among live-stock men. In 1898 he returned to the farm. On the 7th of June, 1899, while on a trip, he suffered a stroke of paralysis, which caused him the loss of the use of his left side, but fortunately his right arm was not affected. He made his headquarters in the hotel at Sandwich until August, 1899, when he came to Millington. The morning after he left the hotel it burned down.

As might be expected of so brave a soldier, Captain Brown is interested in the Grand Army work, and is a member of Darvau Post No. 329, at Morris. His first vote for president was in favor of Fremont. Since the organization of the Republican party he has been a stanch adherent of its principles. His wife died April 28, 1891, and was buried in Newark cemetery, Millington. Their four children are as follows: Eslie, who married W. R. Gay, and resides five miles southwest of Morris; George E., a business man of Morris; Mabel Annette, wife of George Whitson, of Chicago; and Anna, who lives in Odell.





*Joseph Reichmann*



## JOSEPH REICHMANN.

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JOSEPH REICHMANN, a retired business man of Joliet, was born in Donaueschingen, Baden, Germany, February 13, 1836, a son of Joseph and Mary (Gasler) Reichmann. He was one of nine children, three besides himself now living, Agatha, Mary and Xavier, all of Germany. His father, who was born and reared on a farm, engaged in agricultural pursuits throughout all his active life and became well-to-do. He died at the age of eighty-two years. His wife died when about forty years of age, in 1840. Their son, our subject, received a fair education and served an apprenticeship to the butcher's trade. When eighteen he came to America, sailing on the "Isabella" from Havre to New York, where he arrived in the spring of 1854, after a voyage of twenty-one days. The ship on which he sailed was the fastest of its day and was the first sailing vessel to cross the ocean in seventeen days.

From New York Mr. Reichmann went to Buffalo, where he found work at his trade. Through the persuasion of friends he was induced to go to Canada, to secure railroad construction work, but after one day's work he quit. Two weeks later he went to Cleveland, Ohio. In the fall of the same year he went to Erie, Pa., where he worked for a year. In the fall of 1855 he came to Chicago, where he was at once given work at his trade. The spring of 1857 found him in Joliet, where he worked in another man's employ for six months, and then embarked in business for himself, opening a shop on Jefferson street near Scott, with Henry Biedermann as partner. In 1860 he sold out to his partner and

went to Memphis, Tenn., where he worked at his trade for some months. Late in the fall of 1860 he went to Pocahontas, Ark., where he spent the winter, returning to Memphis in the spring and opening a meat market outside the city limits, which was customary at that time. However, the outbreak of the war obliged him to discontinue business three months later. He was pressed into the Confederate home guard service, but after the taking of Memphis and the evacuation of the Confederate army, he secured work with a meat contractor who furnished meat to the army at Vicksburg. He followed the army as far as Grenada, Miss., from which point he was sent back to Memphis for more cattle; but not desiring to return to the field, he came north and returned to Joliet.

Meeting Jacob Adler, the latter persuaded Mr. Reichmann to go in business with him. They opened a store on Joliet street between Jefferson and Washington. In 1866, two years later, he built on the corner of Chicago and Jefferson streets, and engaged in business alone. He was successful and continued the business until 1893, when he retired from active business and leased his store. At one time he bought and sold considerable real estate. In 1874 he built a substantial and handsome residence on South Richards street, and here he and his wife have a pleasant home. He has done much for the up-building of the city and is an excellent citizen. Politically he is a Republican, and in religion a Roman Catholic. He is a member of the Joliet Sharpshooters and the Joliet Saengerbund.

In 1869 Mr. Reichmann married Miss Anna

Koch, who was born in Cologne, Germany, in 1843, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Dresler) Koch, her father being a wealthy brewer and distiller in Cologne. She came to America in 1868 with a sister, and after visiting some friends in New York City proceeded to Joliet, where she has since made her home. Her sister, Lena, became the wife of Hubert Odenthal, who is on the staff of a daily paper in Los Angeles, Cal. Five children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Reichmann, of whom three are living. Anthony, the oldest, is with C. F. Pinneo, in Joliet. Mollie is the wife of William Brown, also of Joliet. Albert, a student in the Chicago College of Pharmacy, has for four years been employed in the drug business with A. W. Flexer, of Joliet.

Mr. Reichmann has been a successful man in the business world of Joliet, and is recognized as an honorable, upright citizen, whose life has been an example to a younger generation.

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**JAMES R. ASHLEY.** The life of Mr. Ashley is inseparably associated with the history of the wire business in Joliet, and an accurate history of the one could not be written without considerable mention of the other. He was the originator of the wire business in Joliet, a city that is now famous throughout the country for its large wire factories. Being a man of mechanical genius, and having the ability to put into form the inventive ideas of his mind, he was fitted to be a leader and pioneer in the business with which he was identified, and while later workers have made many improvements, the principles which he embodied in his work are still utilized.

The Ashley family descends from three brothers who came from England and settled in Vermont about seven generations past. From one of these, Robert, descended Daniel, a soldier in the war of 1812. The latter's son, Rev. Riley B. Ashley, was converted at the age of twenty and

soon entered the ministry of the Baptist Church, preaching at various points in New York. In 1837, in company with his family, his brother Cyrus and the latter's family, and the families of Messrs. Lane and Hubbard, he traveled by team through Canada to Detroit, thence through southern Michigan, into Indiana and to Joliet, spending thirty days on the road, having left Martinsburg, N. Y., May 10, and reaching Joliet on the evening of June 9. With him he had two teams and brought bedding and cooking utensils. He spent the night in the Waving Banner hotel, which was then the leading boarding house in the town; it still stands on North Chicago street, but is now known as the Bissell house. On the 10th of June he proceeded with his family to Plainfield and bought a place owned by the Baptist minister, whom he succeeded as pastor of the church. For those days he was well-to-do, as he had two teams and \$1,500 in money. He bought a farm and later bought and sold other farms, but gave his time principally to religious work, being appointed home missionary in Illinois, Wisconsin, Kentucky and Tennessee, and establishing congregations in various localities. The first Baptist Church in Joliet was organized through his influence. He was a man of fine character, genial, kind-hearted and generous, and made warm friends in every locality that he visited. It is said that he was one of the best judges of horses in the state, and he early taught his son to be an expert horseman. He died in Plainfield in August, 1880, when nearly eighty-one years of age.

The first marriage of Rev. Riley B. Ashley united him with Sally Searles, who was born in Lewis County, N. Y., and died when her son, James R., was two years old. The other child born of their marriage died in infancy. Afterward, Mr. Ashley married again and became the father of three children, viz.: Cyrus, and Mrs. Olive M. Smith, both deceased; and Marian E., wife of George Oliver, cashier of Sweet, Dempster & Co., of Chicago, wholesale dealers in hats and caps. The subject of this sketch was born in Martinsburg, Lewis County, N. Y., February 3, 1825, and was twelve years of age when he first



saw Joliet. He attended public and private schools and Warrenville Seminary. When he was sixteen he earned \$5 and board per month for his work in breaking prairie, and in this way after a time he saved \$150. With this, and \$150 loaned him by his father, he started a small grocery, and was so successful that he soon enlarged the business and took his brother, Cyrus N., into partnership, carrying on a large trade as a general merchant successfully until 1870, a period of twenty years. During this time he was also interested in buying and selling farms.

Coming to Joliet in 1874, Mr. Ashley became connected with A. B. Sharpe & Co. In January, 1876, he sold his interest in that company, and he and his brother, Cyrus N., formed a partnership with H. B. Scutt and William Watkins, for the purpose of manufacturing barbed wire. The company secured a patent on what was known as Scutt wire, which they sold at sixteen cents a pound. Mr. Ashley was the manager of the company and owned almost all of the stock. The venture proved successful, and Mr. Scutt, who was \$1,500 in debt at the time the company was organized, became worth \$150,000. In 1876 the Joliet Wire Fence Company was organized, in which a number of the members of the Illinois Steel Company were interested and of which Mr. Ashley was general manager, having charge of the making of machinery for the manufacture of fence. The plant at Adams' dam was destroyed by fire August 2, 1876, and a suitable location could not be found elsewhere. At this time they made a contract with an official from the state penitentiary and carried on the business there for five years, until the 1st of January, 1882. Previous to this, through the purchase of the interest of the others by Mr. Scutt, D. Robertson and Mr. Ashley, the firm of H. B. Scutt & Co. was formed and they continued together until September, 1881, when Mr. Ashley disposed of his interest to his partners. Meantime, as early as 1876, the Washburn-Moen Company began a suit against them for infringement, and the case was fought for two years, when a compromise was effected, and a royalty of one and three-eighths cents per pound was paid the company.

With his brother and Messrs. Scutt and Robertson, our subject bought out the Joliet Wire Fence Company and completed a reorganization, but after a time his brother retired and with Mr. Watkins formed the second Watkins & Ashley Wire Company, which later sold out to Lambert & Bishop. H. B. Scutt & Co. continued business in the penitentiary, and in time, through the improvement of machinery, they had a surplus of men, but were obliged to pay for them even though they did not need their services; for this reason Mr. Ashley originated a plan for teaching the prisoners to draw wire, and organized a company to manufacture drawn wire. There was no mill west of Cleveland, excepting a small plant in St. Louis. Organizing the Joliet Wire Company he began to manufacture drawn wire, although he was cautioned by many business men against the enterprise and told it would be a failure. In spite of such predictions he made a complete success of it. He originated the lead annealing process for galvanizing. When his five years' contract at the penitentiary had expired, in 1882 he bought the machinery of the Joliet Wire Company and sold it to the Ashley Wire Company. In 1882 he took a contract for one hundred and twenty-five men at the penitentiary for eight years and organized the Ashley Wire Company, with a capital of \$200,000. This company manufactured barb wire, fence staples, wire nails and market wire. After the contract of eight years had expired, being unable to make satisfactory arrangements under the new law, he located on Railroad street, bought the old tile works and in 1890 built the Ashley mill, which he started the following year and operated until 1893. At the time of the panic of 1893 he was ill with nervous prostration, and it was necessary for him, if he wished to live, to give up all active business at least temporarily. In this crisis, the mill having no strong hand at its helm, under pressure of the financial depression, went into the receiver's hands. Undoubtedly had Mr. Ashley's health been as good as in former years he could have safely steered the business over the treacherous shoals and preserved it intact. As it was, however, he was obliged to spend some time in travel



before his health was even partially restored, and he has never since been as vigorous as when in his prime.

During his residence in Plainfield Mr. Ashley married Miss Julia F. Tyler, who was born in Bridgewater, Mass., educated in Troy, N. Y., and about 1842 came to Plainfield. Four children were born of their marriage, but only one, Ella, attained mature years. She is a talented young lady, graduated from the Joliet high school and later studied music and German at Vassar College. She became the wife of George W. Bush, a hardware merchant and a director in the First National Bank, whose president, George Woodruff, is his grandfather.

Always a Republican in national politics, the large business interests of Mr. Ashley never prevented him from keeping informed concerning public affairs. For fifteen years he was township clerk in Plainfield, and at the same time he served for eight years as justice of the peace and notary public. His store was headquarters for prominent men of the township, who met there for the purpose of discussing important matters, drawing up papers, etc. From 1862 to 1870 he was revenue inspector for the government, and had charge of collecting the duty on liquors in this district. He still holds membership in the Plainfield Baptist Church, with which he has been identified for many years, and in which, in former days, he served as treasurer and as chairman of the building committee.

the slaves, and his place was a station on the underground railroad by which slaves were assisted in their flight to the borders. The Congregational Church had in him one of its most earnest members. He died March 12, 1866, aged sixty-seven years. His father, Elias Haven, was the son of a Revolutionary hero who fell in the battle of Bunker Hill. The family was founded in America by two brothers, who came from England, one going south, the other settling in New England. The mother of our subject was born May 29, 1802, and was the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier. She died in this county August 11, 1860, aged fifty-eight years. Of her eight children one son, Dwight, and two daughters survive. One daughter, Amanda C., is the widow of James Goodspeed; the other, Helen, is the wife of W. P. Kimball, of San Francisco.

From the age of thirteen years our subject has made Will County his home. When his education was completed he took up farm pursuits, which he followed until 1884, and still owns his farm. On the death of his brother, Dr. Haven, of Chicago, he took charge of his estate, having an office in the Reaper block in Chicago. In 1884 he built a residence in New Lenox village, where he now lives in ease and comfort. Continuously since 1854 he has held the office of justice of the peace. From 1865 to 1869 he held office as county superintendent of schools. In 1886 he was elected to the general assembly on the Republican ticket. For several years he served as supervisor and has also held the other local offices.

November 3, 1847, Mr. Haven married Helen L. Savage, who died July 28, 1859, leaving four daughters: Lizzie J., widow of A. A. Francis; Mary E., wife of Charles Francis; Helen L., who married Thomas D. Ferguson, of Normal Park, Chicago; and Emma J., wife of Gilbert Van Duser, of Fredonia, Kans. The second marriage of Mr. Haven took place December 26, 1861, and united him with Elizabeth, daughter of James Craig, who was an early settler of Chicago. This marriage resulted in the birth of four children who attained mature years, and

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**H**ON. DWIGHT HAVEN, an early settler of New Lenox Township, was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., in 1821, being a son of Samuel Haven, a native of Chesterfield, N. H., born July 14, 1799. The latter, when a young man, settled in Chautauqua County, N. Y., and from there in 1834 removed to Illinois, settling in what is now New Lenox Township, and buying land at the first land sale in 1836. Though a tanner by trade, his life in Illinois was spent as a farmer. He was a believer in the freedom of

one son, Edward, who died November 8, 1880, at the age of eleven years and four months. The surviving sons and daughters are Dwight C., member of the law firm of Hill, Haven & Hill, of Joliet; Samuel R., of Englewood, Ill.; Edith A., wife of Rev. A. B. Whitcomb, of Jacksonville, Fla.; and Bertha A., at home.

JOHN LARSON, proprietor of the West Side dairy, on section 8, Joliet Township, was born in Sweden, November 18, 1861, and was reared on a farm occupied by his father, Lars, meantime receiving a public school education. Believing that America offered greater opportunities for a young man than his own country, he decided to seek a home in the new world. Accordingly, in 1883, he crossed the ocean, landing in New York and thence coming to Joliet. For five years he was in the employ of a dairy farmer in New Lenox Township, and in this way gained a thorough knowledge of the dairy business, to which he has since given his attention. His first independent venture was the purchase of a dairy business in Joliet. A year later he rented forty acres west of the city and embarked in the business on a larger scale. In 1892 he leased the Reed estate of two hundred and eighty acres, besides which he had adjoining pasture-land and a farm of his own in Troy Township, keeping upon the latter his young stock and the cows that were not used in his dairy work. Upon the expiration of his five years' lease he renewed it for a similar period, and here he has since remained, gradually increasing the business and, in return, receiving greater returns.

Having a large tract of land, Mr. Larson not only conducts a dairy farm, but also gives some attention to general farming, and has two hundred acres under the plow. However, he makes no effort to sell his farm products, but keeps them for winter feed for his stock. Four teams are used steadily on the farm, and from two to

four men are employed in the cultivation of the place. In the raising of oats and corn he has been particularly successful, and has one hundred and ten acres in the latter. On his place are a number of horses, these being raised to sell; also Poland-China hogs and about one hundred head of cattle. The milk he sells at wholesale, supplying dealers in the city, and he therefore is not under the necessity of overseeing the detail work of delivery.

Fraternally Mr. Larson is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Turn Verein. Since becoming a citizen of the United States he has given allegiance to the Republican party. He was reared in the Lutheran faith, and has always been in hearty sympathy with the work of the church. He was united in marriage June 13, 1891, with Miss Beta Sandberg, of Chicago.

HON. JOHN CORLETT. During the long period of his residence in this county Mr. Corlett has been identified with the agricultural interests of Wesley Township; and, while he has made Joliet his home since 1895, he still maintains a general supervision of his farm of six hundred and seventy acres in the township named, not only overseeing the cultivation of the land, but also feeding each year about one hundred head of cattle and two hundred head of hogs. In addition to this property he is the owner of a section of land in Hamilton County, Kans. While he has given close attention to his private business affairs, he has never neglected his duty as a citizen, but has kept posted concerning the problems that confront our nation and has intelligently studied the issues of the age. He is a firm believer in Republican principles and always supports the party platform by his ballot. Frequently he has been chosen to serve in official positions of trust, and in these he has invariably proved himself efficient and faithful. During the twelve years he served as highway commissioner he greatly improved the roads



of the township and was instrumental in securing the building of the dry run. For two terms he held the office of supervisor and for some years served as a school director. His party, in 1890, nominated him to represent the district in the state legislature and he received a good majority at election. During his term of service occurred the memorable John M. Palmer battle, when for three months he voted every day. As a member of the committees on schools and live stock he was able to render able service to the state. His influence was always cast in favor of measures for the benefit of the people and the advancement of those interests that would contribute to the greatest good of the greatest number. In spite of the fact that the house was Democratic and he therefore belonged to the minority side, his influence was nevertheless felt for good among the legislators, and his service was most satisfactory to his constituents.

The Corlett family has been identified with the history of the Isle of Man as far back as records can be traced. Hugh and Jane (Kane) Corlett, lived upon a farm on that, their native island. Their son, John, became a farmer in the same place, but first spent some years in the British army, serving under Wellington in the battle of Waterloo and other noted engagements. He remained in the service from the age of fourteen until twenty-three, when, having lost an arm in the Holland campaign, he was honorably discharged and given a life pension of sixpence a day. He served in the command of Colonel Isaac, with whom he was a great favorite and who, at his death, bequeathed his property to the surviving members of the regiment. Mr. Corlett was one of the three surviving comrades who inherited the bequest. He lived to be eighty-three years of age, and died in 1870. His wife, Ann (McGregor) Corlett, was born near Galloway, Scotland, and accompanied her mother to the Isle of Man at twelve years of age. There she spent the remainder of her life, dying when ninety-six years of age. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while her husband was identified with the Church of England. They were the parents of six sons and two daughters,

viz.: Isaac, who was named for Colonel Isaac and is now living in Leavenworth, Kans.; William, a farmer of Leavenworth, Kans.; John; Christopher, a farmer in Bates County, Mo.; Philip, who is also living on a farm in Bates County; Edward, who died at the home place when twenty-one years of age; Becky, deceased; and Ann, who resides in Wilmington, Ill.

On the Isle of Man occurred the birth of John, son of John, Sr., August 4, 1832. When he was nine years of age he began to herd cattle, receiving twenty-four cents per week. Afterward his wages were increased. May 20, 1855, he left Liverpool on the sailing vessel "Manhattan," which after twenty-three days landed in New York City. He proceeded by railroad to Cleveland, Ohio, thence to Chicago and from there to Kankakee and Rockville, Ill., having a brother, William, in the latter place. For some years he had charge of seven sections of land owned by a widow. After his marriage, in 1859, he moved to this county and settled on the farm that he still owns. During the forty years that have since elapsed he has been prospered in his undertakings and has accumulated a valuable property, at the same time gaining the respect of his acquaintances. He has sometimes been called upon to settle estates and his work has always been satisfactory. He has come to be known as a whole-souled, large-hearted man, one whose character is irreproachable and whose reputation is the highest. While living on the farm he was for years Sunday-school superintendent and a steward of the Methodist Episcopal Church there, and since coming to the city he has been a member of the official board in the Ottawa Street Methodist Episcopal Church.

January 4, 1859, Mr. Corlett married Mrs. Betsey (Franklin) McGilivrey, who was born in Wayne County, N. Y., and died in this county, July 1, 1892, at sixty-three years of age. Her father, Samuel Franklin, who was a native of Vermont, settled in 1830 in what is now Will County and in 1849 started across the plains to California, but died en route and was buried at Fort Kearney. At her death Mrs. Betsey Corlett left four children, viz.: William, a farmer in



this county; Mary, who married E. L. McKim-  
mey and died August 24, 1899; Minnie, wife of  
R. E. Babcock, of Wheaton, Ill.; and Ella, who  
married George Lancaster, of this county. After  
the death of his first wife Mr. Corlett married  
Mrs. Emma Harbaugh, who was born in West  
Salem, Wayne County, Ohio, and in 1863 settled  
in Will County, accompanying her parents,  
Joseph and Elizabeth (Jacobs) Neiswender. Her  
father, a native of Germany, was a child when he  
crossed the ocean with his parents, and he sub-  
sequently became a farmer, continuing in that  
occupation until he died at sixty-five years. He  
was a Republican and a member of the German  
Methodist Episcopal Church. Her mother, who  
was born in New York, went to Ohio in girlhood  
and married there. She survived her husband,  
dying when seventy-six years of age.

merce. Doubtless his most important work in  
the house has been in connection with the in-  
dustrial interests of the state and his most im-  
portant bill was one forbidding the importation  
of workmen under false pretenses, an act pro-  
hibiting the use of deceptive representation,  
false advertisements and unlawful force in the  
procuring of employes to work in any department  
of labor in the state, and fixing penalties for any  
violation of this law. To this bill he gave his at-  
tention during the entire session, endeavoring to  
win friends to the policy therein contained and  
fighting the underhanded policy of its enemies.  
During the last week of the session he was so  
engrossed with the bill that he did not get more  
than seven hours' sleep in the entire time. Among  
his other bills was one revising the mining laws  
of the state, which resulted in Illinois having the  
best mining laws of any commonwealth in the  
United States, one to protect men in case of ac-  
cident, and another to enforce the placing of  
labels on cigars and other articles of manufacture.  
He was deeply interested in creating free employ-  
ment bureaus, which was brought before his  
committee for action and so changed and modified  
that it will be a lasting benefit to the cause of  
labor. Constantly, throughout the session, he  
labored for the welfare of the working people,  
and it was said of him that he kept every prom-  
ise he had made to the laboring classes. The  
revision of the arbitration law was another im-  
portant step toward uniting labor and capital and  
its good results will be an inheritance to future  
generations who will hold in loving remembrance  
the men who so faithfully labored for their wel-  
fare. The praise bestowed upon him for his  
active, honorable and successful service in the  
legislature was richly deserved. While he never  
antagonized capital, yet his preference has always  
been given to the side of labor, for he realizes  
that of the two, the working people most need  
help and counsel. Believing that prison labor is  
injurious to working people, as it brings the two  
into an unjust competition, he introduced a bill  
to abandon the competition of prison with free  
labor; and, while the bill was held in abeyance  
by agreement during that session, yet it accom-

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**HON. SAMUEL J. DREW.** Whoever labors  
for the development of his country, striving  
to bring out its latent resources; who is de-  
voted to the general welfare of the people; who  
seeks to promote the cause of justice and to ad-  
vance our civilization, becomes a public bene-  
factor, and is worthy of mention on the pages of  
history. Such is the character and such the  
record of Mr. Drew, member of the forty-first  
general assembly of Illinois, and an honored citi-  
zen of Joliet. In the fall of 1898 he was elected  
to represent Will County in the lower house of  
the Illinois legislature, the nomination having  
been tendered him, unsolicited, by the Republi-  
cans, who regarded him as a representative of the  
working men of the county. His majority in  
Joliet was almost two thousand and in the county  
nearly three thousand. Since entering upon his  
duties he has served as chairman of the commit-  
tee on labor and industrial affairs, and as a mem-  
ber of the committees on elections, mines and  
mining, judicial department and practice, judi-  
ciary, and canal, river improvement and com-

plished much good, for, as a result, a resolution was passed asking the governor to appoint a commission to investigate the matter and recommend to the next legislature a bill to do away with prison labor. A measure to repeal the butterine bill was introduced into the legislature, but through his own vigilance and that of his colleague, Hon. John Kohlstedt, and a few other members, and also that of Charles Y. Knight, secretary of the Illinois Dairy Union, the bill was defeated, to the entire satisfaction of the farmers of the state and the people in general. On retiring from the legislature he resumed the practice of law in Joliet, and is attorney for the board of highway commissioners.

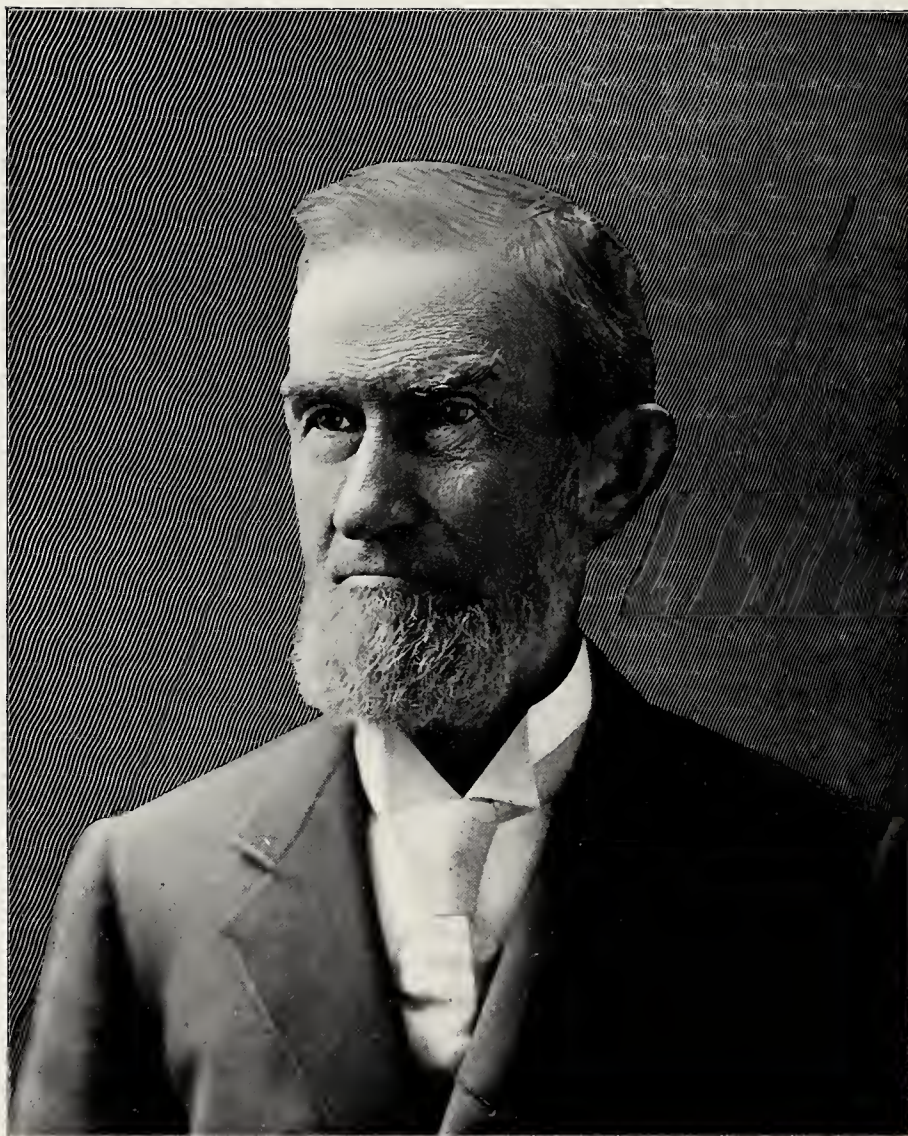
Born in Tipton, Staffordshire, England, April 22, 1863, our subject is a son of Joseph and Sarah (Allen) Drew, natives of the same shire. His grandfather, Joseph Drew, was a member of a very old family of the shire and was a miner by occupation, while the other grandfather, Edward Allen, was foreman of the Tipton iron works. For years Joseph Drew, Jr., was a coal operator in Staffordshire, and while thus engaged his mine was flooded with water and he was ruined financially. For this reason he sought a home in America, crossing the ocean in 1881 and settling at Braidwood, Ill., where his family joined him the next year. For two years he was mining inspector for this county. He is still interested in coal mining at Braidwood. His wife died there in 1897. They were the parents of five children, one of whom, Mrs. Mary Edwards, resides in Tipton, England. The others are Samuel J., Joseph, Mrs. Louisa Cox and Jennie, all but our subject living in Braidwood.

When a boy our subject attended the national school at Tipton. At thirteen years of age he began to assist his father in the mine. In 1882 he began to work in a mine at Braidwood, his first work being the pushing of cars to the foot of the shaft. After three months he began to dig coal. In the spring of 1884 he and his father and brother were given a room and worked together.

With the exception of six months in the Allegheny region of Pennsylvania he continued at Braidwood for some years. Meantime, he began to study the primary branches in the evenings, hoping to finally fit himself for the profession of law. Not feeling satisfied with the knowledge gained at night, he began to take books into the mine with him, and during lulls in the work he studied by the light of a miner's lamp. In 1886 he entered a school of shorthand and telegraphy at Janesville, Wis. Six months later his father was injured and he returned home to care for the family by taking his father's place in the shaft until his father was able to resume work. He then entered the Northern Indiana Normal College, graduating in August, 1887. Coming to Joliet he became a court reporter and stenographer, but soon entered the office of Haley & O'Donnell, attorneys, and under the preceptorship of Mr. Haley studied for the bar. In 1892 he was admitted to the bar. Meantime, he had accepted a position as stenographer for the Illinois Steel Company, and had applied himself to the position with such diligence, gaining so comprehensive a knowledge of the company's business, that he was given the position of chief clerk. He continued with the company until the spring of 1896, when he resigned in order to engage in professional work. About the same time he was elected township clerk, which office he held, by two re-elections, until the spring of 1899, when he refused further nomination. While filling this position he engaged in general law practice, establishing an office in the Barber building. Since his retirement from the legislature he has resumed his practice, much of which is with working men. Fraternally is connected with the Order of Foresters of America, Royal Arcanum and the Paul Revere Lodge, K. of P., also Mount Joliet Lodge, A. F. & A. M. He was married in Braidwood to Miss Lizzie C. Parsons, a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Parsons, of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Drew have one child, Alberta L. Drew.







Very Truly  
Charles Weeks

## JUDGE CHARLES H. WEEKS.

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JUDGE CHARLES H. WEEKS. For sixty-six years a resident of this county, closely identified with the development of its resources and intimately connected with its public affairs, the life of Judge Weeks was an eminently useful one and his reputation that of an honorable and public-spirited citizen. He was a boy at the time his father, Nathaniel Weeks, migrated from the east, making the long journey to Illinois with team and wagon, and settling in Homer Township, this county. On every hand the surroundings were indicative of the frontier. Will County was at that time a part of Cook, and both were sparsely settled and unimproved. He therefore became familiar with the experiences and hardships of pioneer existence and assisted in bringing the county to its present high standing among the counties of the state.

The ancestry of the family appears in the sketch of Horace Weeks, of Joliet, a brother of the judge. The latter was born in New Hampshire June 7, 1821, and accompanied his father to the west in 1833, settling with him in Homer Township, where he helped to break a tract of prairie land and also learned the trade of a harness-maker in Joliet. After a time he turned his attention to the study of law, in which he had the advantage of the preceptorship of prominent pioneer lawyers of St. Charles and Lockport. For years he was one of the prominent public men of the county and a leader in the Whig party. On the organization of the Republican party he became identified with it and afterward supported its principles. For two terms he served as county treasurer, for one term as deputy county treasurer, and later held the office of county judge for

one term. He was known for his sturdy championship of every measure calculated to benefit the county, and was always progressive, fearless and honest. To such as he the early advancement of the community was due. A genuine pioneer, aiding in the development of his locality, and a citizen of strict integrity, ever lending a helping hand in matters affecting the common weal, he was held in high respect and was numbered among the county's leading men. Upon his retirement from office he established his home upon his farm in New Lenox Township and there resided for seven years. He then withdrew from active labors and afterward lived retired in Joliet, where he died June 5, 1899, at the age of seventy-eight years.

The marriage of Judge Weeks was solemnized in New Lenox Township, May 6, 1846, and united him with Miss Jane C. McDonald, who was born in Syracuse, N. Y. Her father, Asa McDonald, was a native of Connecticut and of Scotch descent. He settled in Onondaga County, N. Y., and engaged in the manufacture of salt for some time, but later became interested in farming. In 1836 he brought his family to this county, the trip being made almost entirely in wagons and consuming six weeks. At first he settled in Joliet, but soon removed to a farm in Manhattan Township, at Five Mile Grove, where he carried on a dairy farm. Two years later he purchased a farm in New Lenox Township, three and one-half miles east of Joliet, and there made his home until he died, at fifty-six years. He married Olive Rudd, who was born in Rutland, Vt., of an old established New England family; she died on the home farm in New Lenox Town-



ship. Judge and Mrs. Weeks celebrated their golden wedding May 6, 1896, when a large number of relatives and friends assembled to enjoy the occasion and tender them the congratulations of the day. They were the parents of an only child, Eva, Mrs. George H. Munroe.

**S**AMUEL B. FRASER, who resides on section 28, Wheatland Township, has made his home in this county since 1847. During all these years he has been a witness of the wonderful transformation that has taken place. He has seen cabins replaced by commodious residences of frame and stone, villages and cities spring into populous life, and raw prairies transformed into fertile farms. In all possible ways he has aided in the development of its agricultural interests, instituting a system of tilling the soil, draining the land and harvesting the crops that proves him to be a man of excellent ideas. He has made farming his life work, and by his enterprise and industry has become one of the substantial men of the township. Always public spirited, he has aided in the establishment of schools and churches, the building of roads, and the carrying forward of other worthy movements. An honored pioneer, he is highly respected and esteemed.

When a young man Robert Fraser, our subject's father, came to America from Ireland. He enlisted in the war of 1812 and at its close began to farm in Sullivan County, N. Y., clearing a tract of heavily timbered land. In 1847 he brought his family to Illinois via Buffalo and the lakes to Chicago, thence by wagon to this county. At that early period all travel between Chicago and Joliet was conducted by wagons, as railroads had not yet been built, and the canal was not opened until the spring of 1848. His wife was taken sick while on the lake and died in Chicago. In religion he was connected with the Associate Reformed (now the United Presbyterian) Church. Politically he favored the Democratic party. He married Elizabeth Brown, of

Sullivan County, daughter of William Brown, a hotel keeper, and also an engineer of local prominence. Eleven children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Fraser, five of whom are living, viz.: Thomas, whose home is in Manitoba; Mrs. Elizabeth Smiley, of Plainfield; Samuel B., Harvey R., of Denver, Colo., and Louisa.

Born in Sullivan County, N. Y., in September, 1832, our subject was seventeen years of age when he came west with his parents. Three years later he started out for himself, renting a farm in Plainfield Township. Later he moved to Lockport Township. Saving his earnings each year he was enabled to buy eighty acres in Iowa, but later had an opportunity to get a farm in Lockport Township, so remained in Will County, cultivating one hundred acres. In 1865 he bought eighty acres forming the nucleus of his present property. As he prospered he added to his land until he now has two hundred and forty acres, devoted to the raising of cereals and stock. He has a number of Durham cattle on his place, usually milking from fifteen to eighteen cows. He assisted in the organization of the creamery company, of which he was the first president and in which he is still a stockholder. Having the welfare of the Prohibition party at heart he supports its principles in the national elections, and in township and county affairs supports the man rather than any special party. In 1878 he was elected road commissioner, and continued in the position until the spring of 1899, when he resigned. He is a stockholder in the Normantown elevator, which is owned by the farmers of his locality. In religion he is connected with the United Presbyterian Church and has for many years served as an elder in the same. In 1891 he erected the handsome residence now occupied by his family; all of the other improvements, other than a part of the old residence (now occupied by his son), were made by him.

In 1859 Mr. Fraser married Ann A., daughter of James Brown, a farmer in Sullivan County, N. Y., who settled in Will County in 1853. Six sons were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Fraser, two of whom are living, Herbert A., who teaches in Joliet, and Ernest J., who conducts



the home farm. The heaviest sorrow of their married lives was the loss of four of their sons, Frank having died at nine years, Gillian at seven years old, and Harry at the age of four months; while another son, Thornton, a young man of intelligence and ability, and at the time a teacher in Golconda, Ill., was drowned in 1886, while trying to rescue one of his lady pupils.

**H**ON. ISAAC C. NORTON. A lifelong resident of this county, Mr. Norton is one of the experienced steel-mill men of Joliet, having been actively identified with this business since the days when the Bessemer process was in its infancy. He has been prominent in public affairs and has wielded an influence in the Republican party, of whose principles he is a staunch advocate. As a member of committees and delegate to conventions he has borne his part in party matters, and at one time he represented the first ward on the board of aldermen. In 1888 he was elected to serve as a state elector and was one of the twenty-two electors who cast their votes for Benjamin Harrison for president.

Almond Norton, a native of New York and a merchant of Lewis County, was an intimate friend of DeWitt Clinton and other men prominent in public affairs. When his son, whom he named in honor of his statesman-friend, was a youth of sixteen years, he brought the family to Illinois, settling in Lockport in 1842 and engaging in the mercantile business there, where he died at seventy-two years. His son, who was born in Lewis County, N. Y., in 1826, became a merchant and grain-dealer and operated one of the first stone quarries in Lockport. He was superintendent of the Singer & Talcott Stone Company at Lemont until this company sold out to the Western Stone Company, and he remained with the latter as superintendent. He died in Lemont in 1892 and was buried in Lockport. In early life he was a Douglas Democrat, but voted for Abraham Lincoln's re-election and ever after

affiliated with the Republicans. He held the office of school director in Lockport and was also mayor of Lemont for ten or more years.

The marriage of DeWitt Clinton Norton united him with Maria L. Singer, who was born in Conneaut, Ohio, and is now living in Englewood, Ill. Her mother was a Miss Collins, daughter of a Revolutionary soldier. Mr. and Mrs. Norton had four sons and two daughters, namely: Isaac Cook, the subject of this article; Fred D., who is engaged in the stone business in Bedford, Ind.; Clinton S., who is also in the stone business in Indiana; Mrs. Elizabeth Knight, of Kankakee, Ill.; Mrs. Mamie Clealand, of Englewood; and Horace S., who is with the Illinois Steel Company in Joliet.

The subject of this notice was born in Lockport, Ill., December 15, 1850, and was educated in his home town and Chicago. His first employment was as a clerk in Lemont. In 1870 he bought out a mercantile business in Lemont and with a partner, under the title of Kipp & Norton, carried on a profitable business. In 1872 the firm was consolidated with Teedens & Co., and as such the business was continued until 1874. He then spent six months in Garnett, Kans., after which he became bookkeeper for R. Mathews in Joliet. In 1878 he accepted a position as time-keeper with the Joliet (now the Illinois) Steel Company. Two years later he was made superintendent of the making of rails in B mill. In 1882 he became night superintendent in A mill, and continued as such for seven years, when he was made superintendent of the Billet and Bar mill. In 1897 he was also made superintendent of the rod mill, in which capacity he has since continued, having the oversight of between eight hundred and one thousand men. He has witnessed the growth of this plant from insignificant proportions to its present size, and has himself been an important factor in its development. The company has had no employe more faithful to its interests than he, and his good judgment and intelligence have materially aided the advancement of its interests.

The residence of Mr. Norton is at No. 302

North Eastern avenue. He was married, in Lemont, to Miss Alvira S. Niccolls, who was born in Cadiz, Ohio, and received her education in Bloomington, Ill. Her father, Eben S. Niccolls, an early settler of Bloomington, went from there to Kansas, where he engaged in railroad contracting and in the real-estate business; he now makes his home in Joliet. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Norton. The eldest, Charles C., died at twelve years of age. The second, DeWitt Clinton, a graduate of the Joliet high school, served in Company A, Third Illinois Infantry, during the Spanish-American war, and is now connected with the quartermaster's department of the gulf, located at Atlanta, Ga. The youngest child, Maria Louisa, is a graduate of the Joliet high school. Mrs. Norton is a member of the Baptist Church and a contributor to its work.

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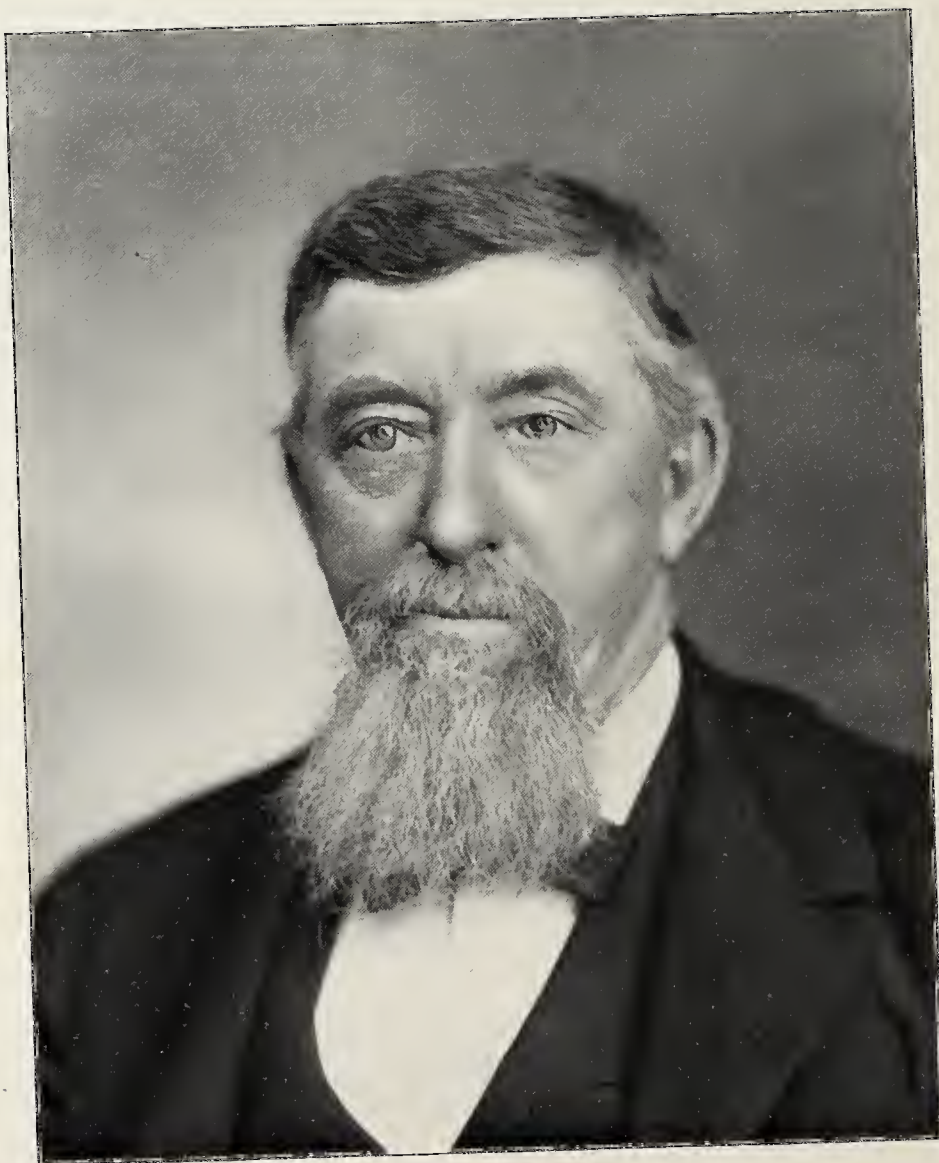
**F**RANK A. JOHNSON. The family represented by this gentleman is one of the oldest in Westrejutland, Sweden. As far back as the genealogy can be traced its members have been identified with the history of that region and have contributed to its development. His father, Johannes Anderson, has spent his entire life as a merchant in Boras and is still living there, active in spite of his seventy years. He married Catherine Anderson, whose father, Andrew, was a farmer, and who died many years ago, leaving three sons: Edwin, who remains in Sweden; Frank A.; and Adolph, a machinist, who has made his home in Joliet since 1882.

In the village of Boras, Frank A. Johnson was born March 19, 1857, and there he received a public-school education and gained his early knowledge of business by clerking in his father's store. After his marriage, in 1883, he left home and settled upon a farm, where he and his wife began housekeeping. The money which he saved enabled him to purchase a home of his own, but in 1886 he sold out and came to America, arriving in Joliet on the 23d of May. Soon he secured employment in the wire mill, where he remained as a fence maker, in the wire fence department for twelve years. Finally he resigned and embarked in a business of his own, becoming a member of the firm of Johnson & Larson, in February 1899. The firm established headquarters at No. 606 Cass Street, and built up a good trade in coal, flour and feed. He sold his interest in this business in October, 1899, and then bought a half interest in an undertaking establishment at No. 503 Cass Street. The name of the firm is Wunderlich & Johnson.

Stanchly Republican in his views, Mr. Johnson is a member of the Swedish-American League of Republican Clubs and has also been active in the Swedish Republican Club, serving on various prominent committees. In the Swedish Lutheran Church he is a member of the board of trustees. He carries insurance in the Fraternal Aid of Milwaukee, and is a member of the Knights of the Globe. The residence which he built at No. 318 Harris avenue makes a neat and pleasant home for himself and his wife, who was Emma Johnson, a native of Sweden. They had but one child, Erik Arthur, and were bereaved by his death when but three years and seven months old.







*Amos Savage*

## HON. AMOS SAVAGE.

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**H**ON. AMOS SAVAGE. Both through his honorable service in the army during the Civil war and through his efficient work as a public official, Mr. Savage is entitled to a high place in the esteem of his fellow-citizens. His army career covered a period of more than three years, beginning August 5, 1861, when he enlisted in Company G, Thirty-ninth Illinois Infantry. His first commission was that of second lieutenant, which was succeeded, July 20, 1862, by his promotion to first lieutenant. He assisted in repelling the raid of "Stonewall" Jackson upon the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, where one hundred men of his regiment defeated a night attack of the Third Arkansas and the Thirty-seventh Virginia regiments, who attempted to destroy a railroad bridge on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. Shortly afterward, in the battle of Winchester, March 23, 1862, he helped to drive the Confederates from the field and secure some of their guns and a number of prisoners. With his command he was sent to join the Army of the Potomac and aid in the seven days' fight. From April to December, 1863, he took part in the siege of Charlestown, during which time he led his company over the parapet of Fort Wagner. In 1864 he participated in the campaign against Richmond, with the Army of the James, and on the 11th of July of that year he was given a captain's commission, in which office he remained until the close of his service. On account of disability he was honorably discharged, October 31, 1864. At that time his regiment had been reduced, from the casualties of battle and from disease, from seven hundred and fifty to one hundred and fifty men in the short space of two months,

which fact alone attests to the valor of the men and their active participation in the war.

As in war, so also in peace Captain Savage has proved himself a public-spirited citizen. His interest in civic affairs has continued throughout his entire active life. In politics a believer in the Republican party, he was on that ticket elected supervisor of Homer Township when he was twenty-four years of age, being the youngest man ever elected a member of the Will County board. He served for a few months, resigning when he enlisted in the army. In 1867 he was again chosen to be supervisor and accepted the office, filling it five years, being chairman during two years of the time. He resigned his position on the board in 1872, in order to accept a seat in the state legislature. In that body he was known for his championship of measures for the benefit of the people. He was a member of the committee that drafted the present railroad law of Illinois. In other ways he rendered acceptable service to the people and ably represented his constituents, retiring with the good will of all. From 1876 to 1884 he was a member of the state board of equalization. In November, 1864, he was appointed township school treasurer, which office he filled continuously for thirty-one and one-half years. His first connection with a presidential campaign was in 1860, when he took the stump for Abraham Lincoln, and he has been active in every campaign since that time.

For sixty-one years Captain Savage made his home on the farm in Homer Township where he was born June 18, 1836. He is one of the oldest native-born citizens of this county and has witnessed its growth and the development of its re-



sources. When a young man he taught school for six successive winters, but with that exception and the public offices he filled, his attention has been given to stock-raising and farming. For fifteen years he made a specialty of feeding and shipping hogs and cattle, in which work he met with success. Having accumulated a competency he determined to retire from active labors, and in 1897 removed to the village of Marley, where he now makes his home. Besides his residence here he owns three hundred and seventy acres of farm land in Homer Township, the rental of which brings him a good income. He has been a prominent member of the Old Settlers' Association of this county and served as its president many times. He is active in the E. A. Gooding Post No. 401, G. A. R., in which he has served as chaplain. He was appointed president of the Will County Farmers' Institute to succeed the late honored A. A. Frances, but declined the office. He is president of the New Lenox County Fire Insurance Company.

The Savage family originated in England, but seven generations ago it was founded in Connecticut. The first of the family concerning whom there is a record was John Savage, of Middletown, Conn., who was married at Hartford to Elizabeth Dubin, February 10, 1652. The old Connecticut homestead is still in the family. The captain's great-grandfather, Amos Savage, was born and died near Middletown, Conn. He served in the French war and the Revolution, and in the latter was commissioned an ensign, a position similar to that of lieutenant. His son, Amos, was born in Middletown, in 1765, and soon after the Revolution migrated to New York, where he became the owner of a large farm and also engaged in tanning. For his day he was a well-to-do man. In politics he was an old-line Whig. He died in 1839.

Levi Savage, the captain's father, was born in Washington County, N. Y., January 28, 1799. At Granville, January 27, 1822, he married Milenda Streator, who was born February 20, 1799. Soon after his marriage he settled in Clinton County, N. Y., but three years later returned to Washington County. In June, 1833,

he brought his family to this county, settling near Joliet, but in the spring of 1834 took up land on section 28, Homer Township. There he improved a valuable farm. For years he was a deacon in the Congregational Church. He was an Abolitionist and a Republican. He died February 14, 1885, at the age of eighty-six. His wife passed away October 13, 1893, aged ninety-four. They had eight children, but only three are now living, viz.: Emily, wife of William H. Lanfear, of Homer Township; Edward, of Sioux Falls, S. Dak.; and Amos, our subject.

During a furlough while in the army Captain Savage married Mary L., daughter of Asahel and Catherine (Geddes) Slate, and a native of Georgetown, S. C., but at the time of her marriage a resident of Lemont, Cook County, Ill. Five children comprise the family of Captain and Mrs. Savage. The eldest, Helen E., is the wife of Frank A. Rowley, of Homer Township. Frank M. resides in Homer Township. John H. is an attorney of Chicago. Willard holds an office as meat inspector for the government at Omaha, Neb. Mary A., the youngest of the family, is the wife of Dr. Walter Paddock, of Orland, Ill. The mother of the children deserves much credit for the rearing of an intelligent family. She has labored self-sacrificingly to have her children a credit to the community and an honor to the family name.

The property which Captain Savage owns and the advantages which he has given his family indicate the energetic nature of the man, assisted by his wife, and to their determination and industry they are due. In his labors as a farmer and stock-dealer he displayed good judgment and an ability to work to the best advantage. Reared in this county during its pioneer days, when the schools were few and their instruction limited, he nevertheless acquired a broad fund of practical information, and by self-culture and application has become a well-informed man, constantly adding to his early stock of knowledge acquired in the primitive schools. No one appreciates more than he the value of a good education, hence he gave his children every advantage in his power and also helped to promote the



interests of the schools of the township. While he is now retired from active labors, he still superintends the management of his property, and this affords an outlet for his energy and an opportunity for the continued exercise of the judgment that brought his success in the past.

**C**HARLES A. NOBLE, county recorder, is one of the popular men of Joliet. He represents an old eastern family, whose members have always displayed the greatest loyalty to our government. His father, R. S., was a son of Hugh Noble, who removed in early life from eastern New York to Dorset, Bennington County, Vt., where the former was born and reared, and whence he removed to Illinois about 1840, settling in St. Charles. In a short time he came to Wilmington, this county, and here engaged in the marble business until his death, in 1862. He married Ellen N. Richards, who was born in Claremont, N. H., and died in this county in 1878. They were the parents of eight children, all but three of whom are still living.

The oldest son, W. S., enlisted in Company A, One Hundredth Illinois Infantry, and served until he was captured at Chickamauga, after which he was imprisoned for eighteen months at Danville, Andersonville, Florence and Libby. He is now an engineer in Joliet. The second son, Henry, enlisted in Company I, One Hundredth Illinois Infantry, and was captured at the same time with his brother, enduring eighteen months of prison life. He was finally released on a sick parole, but did not long survive, dying in the Union hospital at Wilmington, N. C., early in 1865. The third son, James R., served in the Thirty-ninth Illinois Infantry until the close of the war; he is now living in Leavenworth, Kans. The fourth son, Edward H., is a locomotive engineer, in Leadville, Colo., and the only daughter, Mrs. Mary Slouson, lives in Denver, Colo.

The youngest of the family was Charles A., who was born at Wilmington, in this county. When he had finished his schooling he came to

Joliet and secured a position as bookkeeper and conveyancer in the real-estate office of L. E. Ingalls. He soon established a reputation for skill and accuracy with a pen, and ability as an office man which made him available for a better place. This advancement came in 1884 by his selection to fill the position of chief deputy in the office of circuit clerk and recorder of the county. This appointment was for four years and was renewed in 1888 for another term of four years. He was a courteous and capable official and acquired a large acquaintance and popularity throughout the county, so that at the expiration of his deputyship, in 1892, he was looked to as the proper man to organize the newly created office of recorder of deeds. The Republicans nominated him and he was elected by a nice majority in the close election of that year, running ahead of the state and national ticket. He was re-elected in 1896 by a majority of over two thousand. His term will expire December 3, 1900.

With over twenty years' experience in a real-estate office, as clerk of the court and as recorder, he has gained a fund of practical knowledge about real-estate matters which not only makes him a very useful official, but a safe and conservative adviser, whose counsel is often sought. He buys and sells considerable real estate and is the proprietor of one of the principal subdivisions adjoining Joliet.

In St. Paul, Minn., in 1887, Mr. Noble married Miss Lillian Reid, who was born in Waukegan, Ill., and died in Joliet in 1888. His second marriage took place in Crete, this county, in June, 1899, his wife being Miss Florence Smith, daughter of A. H. Smith.

Prominent in Masonry, Mr. Noble is past master of Mount Joliet Lodge No. 42, A. F. & A. M.; past high priest of Joliet Chapter, R. A. M.; past Thrice Illustrious master of Joliet Council; member of Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T., and Medinah Temple, N. M. S. He was the first secretary of the Union Club and later was its president for several years. During the building of the Silver Cross hospital he was president of the board of trustees, and afterward continued in that capacity for some years, assisting in placing upon a firm

basis an institution that has been an active agent in philanthropic work in Joliet. In 1891 he organized the Noble Masonic Relief Society; of which he has been president from the first and which, through a system of his own, is organized so as to furnish relief promptly and systematically to the worthy poor. The Joliet Relief Association has the benefit of his assistance as one of its directors. He is also active in the Joliet Business Men's Association, and is serving upon its directorate.

**G**EORGE B. COOK. A resident of this county for many years before his death, Mr. Cook became well known among the people of this part of the state, and his manly qualities made him popular with all classes. Industrious, persevering and energetic, he was eminently worthy of large financial success; but unfortunate enterprises deprived him of much of his capital, and this, combined with his generosity, which was a dominant trait in his character, prevented him from becoming the possessor of a fortune. However, he won that which is of more value than money—the respect of his associates, the regard of his acquaintances and the affection of his friends, and it is doubtless true that few men have been more deeply mourned at death than was he.

A son of Lewis and Mary (Hartwick) Cook, the subject of this article was born in Watertown, N. Y., in August, 1840, and was one of a family of five sons and two daughters, of whom only two sons survive. When he was a boy his father brought the family to Illinois, settling in Cook County, where he died. The wife and mother died in Lockport in 1891. On coming to this county in early manhood, our subject for some years was employed in the office of the canal commissioner at Lockport, after which he was lock-keeper and then a clerk in a dry-goods store in Lockport. From there he went to Channahon as lock-keeper. Two years later he accepted a position as superintendent in the widening of the feeder near Wilmington, a work that required several years in its completion. Next he became

a member of the firm of Cook & Fowler, merchants at Shermanville, this county, but after a few years returned to Chicago and clerked there for some time. In 1885 he returned to this county, accepting a position as clerk for Mr. Dyer in Joliet, later clerking for Neighbor & Nicholas, and afterward engaging in the dry-goods business on Washington street, thence moving to Jefferson street. On selling out he took a clerkship with the Joliet Dry-Goods Company and continued in charge of their dry-goods department until his death.

Politically Mr. Cook believed in the wisdom of Republican principles and gave his vote to that party. Though not a member of any denomination he was a man of firm religious belief and lived the life of a Christian. For some time he held membership in Matteson Lodge No. 175, A. F. & A. M., in which he was past master. He also was a member of Joliet Chapter, R. A. M., and Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T. On the 6th day of June, 1897, while out riding upon his wheel, he suddenly fell from the bicycle and in a moment was dead, the victim of heart disease. His sudden death was a shock to his friends and a source of deepest sorrow to his family.

March 25, 1860, in Davenport, Iowa, Mr. Cook married Miss Eliza Killeen, who was born near Dublin, Ireland, the youngest of a family of five sons and four daughters, of whom one son and three daughters are now living, the son, John, being a prominent citizen of New Liberty, Iowa. When a child she was brought to America by her mother and later received her education in a convent in Louisville, Ky. Her father, Theodore Killeen, a native of Ireland, engaged in the mercantile business there until his death. Her mother, Ann, was born in England, being the daughter of Frederick Potts, an officer in the English army. After the death of her husband she brought the family to the United States and settled in Providence, R. I. Her death occurred in Davenport, Iowa, in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Cook became the parents of two sons, James and George, both of whom make their home in Joliet, but are traveling much of the time as advance agents for Ringling Brothers' circus.







KEOKUK B. BOOTH.

## KEOKUK B. BOOTH.

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**K**EOKUK B. BOOTH. As an enterprising business man, Mr. Booth was well known to the people of Joliet. The record of his life affords an illustration of the fact that he who is quick to see opportunities and equally quick to grasp them may attain success, in spite of early disadvantages and many obstacles that confront him. His was a life of diligence. When only fourteen years of age he left home, and from that time he made his own way in the world, succeeding so well that, although he was only in the prime of life when he died, he had accumulated a competency and built up a substantial business. Meantime he had also made many friends, and it is said that his funeral was one of the largest ever held in Joliet, this fact affording in itself an indication of his popularity as a man.

Mr. Booth was born in Libertyville, Ohio, May 11, 1857, a son of T. C. Booth, a descendant of English ancestors who first settled in New Jersey and thence removed to Ohio. When he was fourteen he and his brother, Harry O., came west, and he secured a clerkship in a Chicago clothing store. He was a self-made and a self-educated man in every sense. His evenings were spent in the school room, where he laid the foundation for a store of knowledge that aided him in his business and made his society valuable to his numerous friends. After his marriage, in 1884, he removed to Lake Geneva, Wis., and entered the hardware business as a member of the firm of T. C. Smith & Co. After the death of Mr. Smith Mr. Booth came to Joliet, in 1887, and founded the business in which he afterward engaged, and which he enlarged from time to time. He had a three-story laundry operated by

steam and furnished with modern appliances, it being the largest and best laundry in the city. He was active in the National Laundrymen's Association, and assisted in organizing the Illinois State Laundrymen's Association, of which he was elected the second president. In politics he was a Republican, and in religion a Universalist. He was a charter member and stockholder in the Union Club. Fraternally he belonged to Matteson Lodge No. 175, A. F. & A. M., Joliet Chapter No. 27, R. A. M., Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T., and Medinah Temple, N. M. S., of Chicago.

The marriage of Mr. Booth took place in Chicago, September 10, 1884, and united him with Miss Susan F. Smith, who was born in Ottawa, Ill., a daughter of Nohr R. and Anna (Brush) Smith, natives of Homer, N. Y., and Amityville, Long Island, N. Y. Her grandfather, Nohr R. Smith, Sr., was born in Bridgeport, Conn., and became a large miller in Homer, N. Y. He was one of the organizers of Cortland Academy, and served as a member of the original board of twelve trustees, continuing on the board until his death, at seventy-four years. His father was a captain in the coasting trade and was a native of Connecticut, of English ancestry. Nohr R. Smith, Jr., graduated from the academy which had been founded largely through his father's efforts. When a young man he settled in Ottawa, Ill., where he built up a large and profitable grain business. His death occurred in Secor, Ill., in 1877. Politically he voted with the Democrats. His wife, who was a member of an old Long Island family, died in Ottawa. They were the parents of three



children, but Mrs. Booth is the sole survivor. She was educated in Cortland Academy and Monticello Seminary at Godfrey, Ill., and is now an educated and accomplished woman, possessing not only social charms, but also business ability, and is successfully managing the business established by her husband. Like him, she is a believer in the doctrines of the Universalist Church. As he was active in Masonry, she, too, has been prominent in the allied organization, the Eastern Star, and is past matron in Chapter No. 187 in Joliet. Mr. Booth died June 24, 1899, and three days later his remains were buried, with Masonic honors, in Oakwood cemetery. He is remembered as a reliable, industrious business man, who abundantly deserved the prosperity that his efforts had gained.

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**F**RANK E. MARSH, a resident of Joliet, is engaged in the grain and coal business at Plainfield as a member of the firm of Marsh & Wood. He was born in Joliet June 27, 1849, a son of H. N. Marsh, elsewhere represented in this work. His education was obtained in local public schools and Chicago Academy. His first business was in connection with railroading. After two months of work as a substitute he was given the position of ticket agent and operator in the Joliet office of the Rock Island Railroad, his father at the time being freight agent for the same road. The position was one of responsibility, but, although he was quite young, he proved himself fully equal to the demands made upon him. He remained with the company for six years, leaving in 1874 in order to embark in the grain business with Mr. Carpenter as a partner. In 1879 another partner was taken into the firm, the title of which then became Carpenter, Marsh & Speer. By the retirement of Mr. Carpenter in 1881 the name was changed to Marsh & Speer, and as such continued until 1886.

Forming a partnership with Milton R. Wood in 1886, the subject of this sketch engaged in the

grain business in Plainfield, where he built the elevator and has since had charge of the same, his partner living in Chicago. In 1888 the firm built an elevator at Normantown, three miles northwest of Plainfield, and this they operated until the summer of 1899, when they sold it. They have built an elevator at Wolf's Crossing, six miles northwest of Plainfield, which they operate.

In national politics Mr. Marsh is a Republican, but is inclined to be independent in local matters. For four terms of two years each he was alderman from the fourth ward of Joliet, and for three years he held the office of school inspector. In 1873 he married Miss Kate Richmond, of Joliet, who died in 1879. Of the three children born to this union, one, Kate, died in infancy. The older son, H. Richmond Marsh, M. D., a graduate of the New York Homeopathic College, has since 1896 been employed as a government teacher and medical missionary at Point Barrow, Alaska. The second son, Loren W., represents the Luxfer Prism Company in Boston, Mass. In 1882 Mr. Marsh married Miss Ida Pierce, of Greenfield, Mass., and one son survives her, Ralph L. The present wife of our subject bore the maiden name of Jessie Gaskell and was born in Seward Township, Kendall County.

As a business man Mr. Marsh is careful and active, full of life and energy, and by good management and perseverance he has placed himself in the front ranks of the successful business men of the county.

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**J**OHAN D. KOBLISKA, deceased, formerly of Homer Township, was born in Lockport, this county, June 8, 1856, and was a son of Francis and Mary E. Kobliska, natives of Bohemia. His parents came to America in 1853 and settled in Homer Township, where his father commenced to farm on a small scale, but in time he was prospered, and when he died, in 1879, he left considerable property to his children. His wife survived him twenty years, dying in 1899.



On the home farm our subject grew to manhood, receiving his education in district schools. In 1870 he bought the eighty-acre farm where his family still lives, and here he engaged in truck gardening, finding a market for his produce in Joliet and along the canal. He was an honest, hard-working, persevering man, who toiled tirelessly in order to surround his family with the comforts of life. Had his life been prolonged he would undoubtedly have enjoyed an increasing success, as he had established his business on a substantial basis and had built up an excellent trade; but, while still in the prime of his usefulness, he passed from earth. With the thoughtfulness of one who is devoted to his family he had carried a life insurance, and this, together with his farm, left his family comfortably provided for. He had erected a number of buildings on the place; in 1890 fire entailed a heavy loss, but he rebuilt the same year. In his political relations he was a Democrat. However, he was not active in politics and never aspired to office, finding sufficient to occupy his time in the management of his farm and the discharge of his duties toward his family and his friends. His death occurred September 3, 1896, when he was forty years of age.

Mr. Kobliska is survived by his wife, whom he married December 3, 1881, and who was Mary E. Mende, daughter of Anton Mende, of Chicago. Their five children are: Charles A., Ella, George W., Paul F. and Ruth Marie, all of whom are students in the Lockport school. The eldest son, who is a bright and intelligent youth of sixteen years, carries on the home place with the assistance of his mother.

there married Susanna Maxwell, February 14, 1815. She died September 2, 1825, and afterward he married Harriet E. Seudder, the date of their union being February 17, 1828. In 1833 he started with his family for the west, traveling by canal to Buffalo, thence by team to Ohio, where he spent the winter. In 1834 he completed the journey to Illinois via wagon, arriving in Will County in April. All the surroundings were those of the frontier. There were but three houses between the land where he settled and Chicago, and in the entire county there was only one frame house. He took up two hundred and forty acres of government land and eighty acres of canal land. Almost his sole neighbor was his brother-in-law, who had settled here in 1833, and through whose solicitations he had been induced to come. On his land he raised wheat, averaging forty bushels to the acre, and this he hauled to Chicago. He built the stone house on the road to Joliet which was long known as the old Brunson place. As time passed by and he prospered he added other land to his place, and gave to each of his sons one hundred and sixty acres. Though interested in political affairs he took no part in them, preferring to devote himself to the improvement of his place. While in the east he held a number of local offices, and after coming west he was often urged to accept the nomination for township and county offices, but always refused. During the war of 1812 he was a captain in the volunteer service, and afterward was connected with the state militia. After Buffalo was burned by the British his company was ordered there, and stationed at Twelve-Mile Creek. In politics he upheld Whig principles. His only brother, Harvey, who removed from New York to Ohio, enlisted in the war of 1812, and died from the effects of hardships and exposure of army service. His father, Thomas, was one of six brothers who served in the Revolutionary war, from which it will be seen that the family is intensely patriotic. The first of the name in America crossed the ocean shortly after the arrival of the "Mayflower" in New England, and several succeeding generations remained in the east.

By his first wife Cyrus Brunson had five chil-

**E**LIEL S. BRUNSON, a well-known farmer of Dupage Township, is one of the oldest native-born citizens of the county, his birth having occurred in Lockport Township April 22, 1835. His father, Cyrus, a native of Roxbury, Conn., born in 1789, was reared in York state, and

dren, viz.: Montreville, born July 16, 1817; Phoebe L., April 1, 1819; Cyrus M., April 12, 1821; David H., December 25, 1822; and Susan E., August 16, 1825. By his second wife four children were born, namely: Eliel S.; Marshall N., who was born April 18, 1838, and died in infancy; Clarissa, born November 23, 1840; and Harriet A., who was born July 25, 1845, and died in childhood. The father of this family was killed by lightning in 1857, and his widow died in November, 1892, when eighty-two years of age.

When a boy the subject of this sketch had no educational advantages whatever, as schools were few, and even had they been numerous, the work on the home farm would have prevented him from attending. After his father's death he took up the management of the homestead, remaining there until 1863, when he bought a quarter section in Dupage Township. This land had originally been taken up by his uncle, who sold it to John Frink, and the latter used it as a stopping-place for stages. Our subject bought it from Mr. Frink. About forty acres had been broken, a log-house and a small barn had been built, but no other attempt at improvement had been made. He built a new house and made other valuable improvements, but on the morning of August 26, 1893, a fire occurred that destroyed six buildings on his farm, every tool that he had and \$1,000 worth of grain. By dint of hard work he was able to save the residence from destruction. This house was built in 1876, and he still occupies it. The farm is a fine place, and its neat appearance bespeaks the thrift of the owner. He bought fifty acres adjoining his original purchase, and cultivated the whole until 1893, when he retired. In stock-raising his specialty was Shropshire sheep. In 1884 he became a member of the Masonic lodge at Lemont. Politically a Republican, he has taken an active interest in public affairs, and has served as justice of the peace for twelve years, as township school treasurer for eight years, and township trustee for many years.

In 1859 Mr. Brunson married Elizabeth Alden, member of one of the oldest families of America,

being of the eighth generation in direct descent from John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, of Puritan fame. The Alden family is now, as in early days, noted for the unassuming demeanor of its members, their honesty and integrity. As a rule, they have followed the profession of teaching, although Mrs. Brunson's father, Simeon Alden, learned a trade when a young man, and after settling in this county engaged in farming. He was born in Stafford, Conn., and in early manhood removed to New York state, where his daughter was born. In 1846 he settled in Chicago, and in 1853 established his home in Dupage County. At the time that he came west Chicago was a small hamlet, containing only one school, although two more were built during the year of his arrival. The Sherman house was the largest building in the city, and it was raised in 1846 and made five stories in height. No attempt had been made to pave the streets, and teams often stuck in the mud in what is now the heart of the city. Though Mrs. Brunson was but a child at the time, all these things made an indelible impression on her mind, and often now she takes pleasure in contrasting the great city of to-day with the muddy, dingy hamlet of fifty years ago.

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**JULIUS W. FOLK**, M. D., who is living retired in Joliet, is a member of a German family. His father, Henry, was born in the kingdom of Brunswick, Germany, June 12, 1806, and, being the only son of wealthy parents, was given the best advantages which ample means rendered possible. He graduated in medicine from the University of Heidelberg. In 1833 he came to America and settled in York, Pa., but afterward removed to Abbottstown, Adams County, Pa., and later went to Holmesburg, the same state. In the spring of 1849 he settled in Illinois, remaining for a short time in Blue Island. The year 1851 found him in Mokena, this county, and in 1854 he settled in Greengarden Township, where he bought a farm of three hun-



dred and sixty acres and superintended its cultivation while also practicing medicine. He was the first physician to settle in Peotone, where he continued to make his home until he died, January 31, 1888. He was a man well versed in the classics and general history, as well as in the science of medicine, and his broad knowledge upon every subject of importance gave value to his opinion. In politics he was a Republican.

Twice married, the first wife of Dr. Henry Folk was Christine Kinsman, who died April 19, 1843, when the subject of this sketch was less than one year old. Afterward the doctor married Louisa Kinsman, a half-sister of his first wife, and who now makes her home with a daughter in Houston, Tex. The sisters, Christine and Louisa, were born in Germany. When they were children the family decided to come to America. However, on their arrival at the seaport they found the ship had sailed which they intended to take; and, as another would not leave for a long time for the United States, they determined to take a sailing vessel about to leave for Jamaica, hoping later to get to this country. While they were on the vessel ship fever broke out and the father fell a victim to the disease, dying at sea. Soon after landing the mother died and later two of the oldest sons passed away, leaving the other children alone and helpless in a foreign country. An aunt living in York, Pa., was corresponded with and sent for them to join her, which they did, reaching York in 1837, three years after they had started on the ill-fated voyage. The family had possessed large means, but the illness of the parents and sons, with exorbitant bills for physicians and nurses and high hotel rates, together with the fact that grasping strangers had imposed upon the little children, rendered them poor.

Dr. Folk was the second child and only son among seven children who attained maturity. He was born in Holmesburg, Pa., July 5, 1842, and came west when a child with his father. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, One Hundredth Illinois Infantry, and was mustered into the service as a corporal at Springfield. Soon he was assigned to hospital duty under

Dr. A. W. Heise, of Joliet, with whom he remained for some time. Later he went to the south and took part in the battles of Laverne, Stone River and Chickamauga. In February, 1864, he was honorably discharged on account of physical disability. The year after his return home he began the study of medicine under Dr. Heise. In 1866 he entered Chicago Medical College, from which he graduated in 1869, and afterward he practiced with his former preceptor for two years in Joliet.

Turning his attention from medicine to railroading, Dr. Folk became a contractor with J. A. Henry in 1871. He built a switch on the Chicago & Alton from Joliet to the gravel pit, and then was connected with the Dwight & Washington branch of the Chicago & Alton road. His next contract was for the building of a road from Roodhouse to the Mississippi River. Next he went into Texas as a contractor on the Houston & Great Northern, built by Shepherd & Henry, and spent three years in that state, where he had charge of the construction of the road. Later he was employed on the Houston, Arkansas & Northern Railroad and on the government works at Mussel Shoals, Ala. His last contract was on the Mississippi levee in Missouri. In 1895 he retired from the railroad and contracting business, since which time he has given his attention to the supervision of his farm of one hundred and twenty acres three miles southwest of Joliet and to the oversight of his other interests. He is a stockholder in the Will County Bank, and at one time served on its board of directors.

In the blue lodge at Manteno, Ill., Dr. Folk was made a Mason, and he is now a member of Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T. He has always supported the platform of the Republican party, although he has not been active in politics. His marriage took place in Joliet and united him with Miss Helen J. Henry, who was born in Berlin, Hartford County, Conn., a daughter of Jacob A. and Nancy E. (Briggs) Henry. When she was about three years old she was brought to Illinois by her parents and has since made her home in Will County. She is a member of the Universalist Church, in the work of which she has



maintained an interest and to which she has been a generous contributor. Dr. and Mrs. Folk have two children: J. Albert, who is a member of the class of 1902, Culver (Ind.) Military Academy; and Ethel Louise.

THOMAS SWINBANK, deceased, who was for some years connected with the rolling mills of Joliet, was born at Swinbank, Kendall, England, February 8, 1849, a son of Joseph Swinbank, a farmer and freeholder in that locality, and later a part owner of a rolling mill at Elsecor, where he died. Through his mother he descended from the noble families of Bath and Birketts. He married Ann Megean, whose mother was a member of the noble house of Bath. Both Joseph Swinbank and his wife have long been dead. Of their six children, two sisters remain in England. Joseph, who was an engineer, died in Cleveland, Ohio; John is with the Oliver steel works in Pittsburg; and William died in Seattle, Wash., while on a trip west with the Sir Knights.

When seventeen years of age our subject entered the rolling mill at Elsecor, England, where his brothers, John and William, also learned the trade. In 1870 he came to America, settling in Cleveland, Ohio, and securing employment as a heater in the Cleveland mills. In 1883 he went to Pittsburg, Pa., as a heater in mills. Two years later he traveled in the west, north and south. In 1889 he came to Joliet, where he was employed by the Illinois Steel Company as a heater in their mills, and also became interested in real estate and farm property in the county. His brother, William, who had put down a mill near Pittsburg and later was a boss roller in Cleveland, removed to Joliet and engaged as a boss roller here until the time of his death.

On retiring from the mill Mr. Swinbank settled on one of his farms near Braceville, Grundy County, but the location was not suited to his health, and he went to Atlantic City. Finally he returned to Pittsburg, Pa., where he died

April 27, 1898, and was buried in the Allegheny cemetery in that city. He had served as treasurer of the Amalgamated Association of Steel and Iron Workers, and was chairman of the committee that, at the time of the Cleveland strike, met with the employers for arbitration. His brother, John, was vice-president for the district at the time of the great Pittsburg strike. In politics he was a Republican, in religion an Episcopalian, and fraternally belonged to Matteson Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and Joliet Chapter, R. A. M.

In Pittsburg, February 2, 1886, Mr. Swinbank married Miss Margaret Robeson, who was born in Washington County, Pa., a daughter of James L. and Jane (Lower) Robeson, natives respectively of Philadelphia and of Indiana County, Pa. Her grandfather, Dr. James Robeson, graduated in medicine in London and while in his native land married Margaret Johnson, daughter of a shipbuilder on the Clyde. With his wife he came to the United States. Three days after they landed in Philadelphia, their son, James L., was born. The latter became a contracting decorator and artist, and engaged in business in Pittsburg until his death. During the Civil war two of his brothers served in the Union army and he raised a company of which he was elected captain, but at Washington he was discharged on account of ill health. His wife was a daughter of a lieutenant in the war of 1812 and a granddaughter of one of Washington's aides in the Revolutionary and French and Indian wars. The Lower family was of Holland-Dutch descent. Three brothers of Mrs. Robeson took part in the Civil war. She is still living and makes her home in Dunkirk, Ind. Of her family of four daughters and two sons, two daughters and one son are living. Franklin is connected with the National Biscuit Company in Pittsburg, Pa. William J., an artist, died in Pittsburg; Martha is the widow of James Faulkner, of Dunkirk, Ind. Belle and Agnes are deceased.

Mrs. Swinbank graduated from Burt's Normal School and the Pittsburg Academy. After the death of her husband she returned to Joliet. In Jackson Institute, Chicago, she learned dress-

making and tailoring, and in April, 1899, started in business at No. 413 Cass street, Joliet. Having excellent taste, she has been successful in her work and is building up a valuable business. She owns eighty acres in Grundy County and property in the Dakotas. In religion she is a Universalist. Both she and her husband were charter members of the Union Club of Joliet, with which they were connected until their removal to Grundy County. She has two children, Edith Margaret and Eugene Franklin.

Grove, which was the first farm opened in Jackson Township, its original owner having been Charles Reed. There he began farming and stock-raising. In later years he became the owner of several farms, and at the time of his death was in very comfortable circumstances. In politics he was a Whig and an Abolitionist, and among the offices which he held was that of justice of the peace. In religion he was identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church. He died of the cholera in 1854, at the age of thirty-eight years and six months.

Twice married, John Grant had by his first wife a son, William C., who is engaged in the implement business at Elwood. His second wife, Adeline, was born in Greenbrier County, W. Va., and after the death of her father, in 1834, accompanied her mother and the other children to Illinois, settling at Forked Creek, Wesley Township, this county, where her mother died in 1880. Four children were born to Mr. Grant's second marriage, namely: Mary A., who died of cholera in 1854, aged nine years; Mrs. Margaret R. Bush, of Elwood; John A.; and James M., of Joliet. The boyhood days of our subject were passed on the home farm, and his education was secured in district schools. He remained with his mother until he was twenty-one years of age, when he settled one mile south of Elwood and improved a farm of ninety acres, making this place his home from 1871 to 1883. His next business was as proprietor of a meat market in Elwood. In 1891 he entered the employ of the Lambert & Bishop Wire Fence Company, becoming foreman in the plain wire department, where he remained for six years. In January, 1897, he accepted a position as keeper in the state penitentiary, where he remained for eighteen months. He resigned that position to accept the appointment of deputy internal revenue collector, which he has since filled with efficiency.

JOHN A. GRANT, who has spent his entire life in this county, was in June, 1898, appointed deputy internal revenue collector for the twelfth division of the first district of Illinois, embracing Lee, Dekalb, Kendall, Dupage and that part of La Salle, Grundy and Will Counties lying north of the Illinois River. For some years he has been an active factor in the politics of his county, and a local Republican leader. While residing in Jackson Township he served as collector, and also held the office of police magistrate of Elwood for one term. In 1886 and again in 1890 he served as secretary of the county central committee, and in other positions he has assisted in promoting the welfare of his party.

Mr. Grant was born in Jackson Township, this county, July 21, 1850, a son of John and Adeline (Frazer) Grant, and a grandson of John Grant, Sr., a farmer of Scotland, and Thomas Frazer, a lifelong resident of West Virginia. His father, who was born at Banfshire, Scotland, in 1816, a member of an old Scotch Presbyterian family, crossed the ocean in 1834, being the first of his family to seek a home in America, although about 1850 three of his brothers joined him in Will County. After traveling in search of a location for a few months he came to Illinois, where he was employed as a sub-contractor on the Illinois and Michigan canal. In 1838 he bought property at Reed's

Fraternally Mr. Grant is connected with the Royal Arcanum and the Court of Honor. In religious faith he is a Methodist. He was married in Wilmington, this county, to Miss C. A. Fishburn, who was born in that place, daughter



of John Fishburn, a pioneer farmer there. Four children have blessed the home life of Mr. and Mrs. Grant, namely: Cynthia, who died at the age of two and one-half years; Charles, who is a baggageman on the Chicago & Alton Railroad; Lena E. and Edna, who reside at home.

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**G**EORGE MASSEY, president of the Massey Stone Company, has been prominently identified of recent years with the development of the quarry interests in this county. His connection with the quarry of which he is now the proprietor began in 1892, when the Kirkpatrick, Hawk & Massey Stone Company was organized, with himself as president and owner of one-half interest. The company opened a quarry on Mill road, near Richards street, at once beginning to operate the same. After three years Mr. Massey purchased the interest of his partners, since which time he has been alone. He is the owner of eighteen acres of quarry, which is connected by a switch with the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad, and is provided with a complete equipment of derricks, steam drills, etc. The products of the quarry are shipped to various parts of the country, and, the quality being very desirable, bring a fair return to the owner.

A son of William and Ellen (Cleary) Massey, the subject of this sketch was born on the home farm in County Limerick, Ireland, and descended from one of the oldest families of Ballylander. Of seven children, he and three other sons survive, John being in Chicago, William at Lake Geneva, Wis., and Charles in South Chicago. When a boy he studied in the national schools of Ireland. In 1861, accompanied by his mother, he crossed the ocean from Liverpool to New York, the journey on a sailing vessel, the "North America," taking forty days. He at once joined his three brothers and two sisters at Lake Geneva, Wis.,

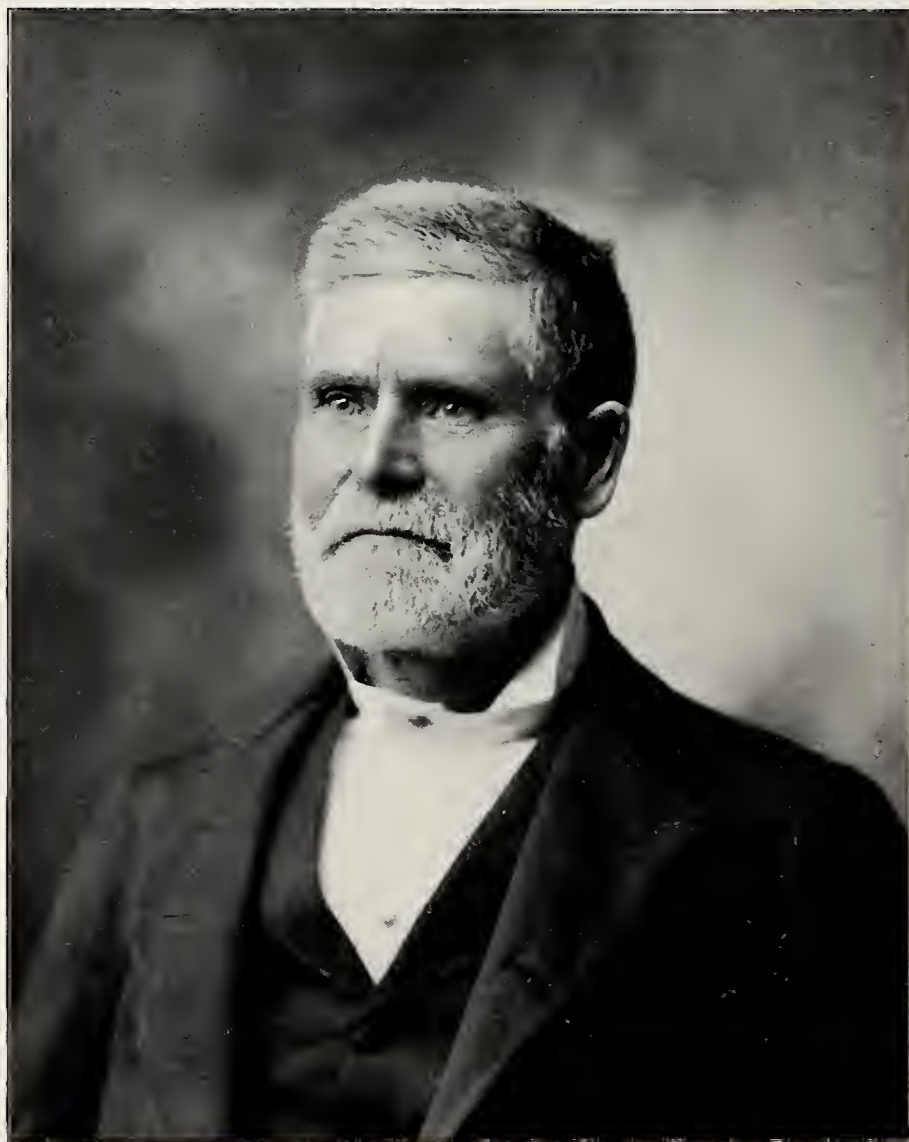
and for two years worked on a farm near that place. Next he went to Racine, Wis., and for a year was employed in J. I. Case's machine shop. Going from there to Chicago he worked in the Northwestern Railroad shops. In 1871 he engaged in general contracting in the same city, but two years later established his home in Joliet, where he has since resided. He carried on contracting and a real-estate business in this city until 1892, since which time he has been identified with the stone industry. He has bought and sold considerable property, and built the house which he now occupies on Collins street. Here he owns six fine buildings that pay a good rental and are among the best investments on the street. He also owns five acres of quarryland two miles west of his old quarry, which is also a good investment and will prove a heritage to his descendants.

In his political views Mr. Massey is independent, never having mingled in public affairs to any extent, but preferring to devote himself exclusively to his business interests. He was reared in the Roman Catholic faith and is now a member of St. Mary's Church. In this city he married Miss Lizzie Kelley, who was born in County Limerick, Ireland, a daughter of William Kelley, at one time a resident of Joliet, but who died in Chicago at eighty-four years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Massey are the parents of five children: Nella T. and Catherine V., who are graduates of St. Mary's Academy; William E., who is taking a business course; Lizzie G. and George, Jr.

Mr. Massey deserves much credit for his success in life. Starting almost without a dollar, but being endowed with a great amount of energy and perseverance, he was determined to succeed. His life is a study to the historian of this country and an example to the younger generation. His reputation for honest dealing is proverbial and his jolly greetings and hearty ways will long be remembered by the citizens of Joliet.







Horace Humphrey

## HORACE HUMPHREY.

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**H**ORACE HUMPHREY, senior member of the firm of Humphrey & Sons, is proprietor of the oldest manufacturing establishment in Joliet and enjoys the distinction of being one of the pioneer foundrymen in Illinois. In 1861 he began the foundry business on a small scale, building a foundry on land that he first rented but later purchased. Gradually the business grew to large proportions, a machine shop was erected with a capacity of forty tons, and other improvements were made from time to time. At this writing the business place has a frontage of three hundred and twenty feet on Ottawa street. Machinery and castings of all kinds are manufactured and the quality of the products is such as to insure a steady demand for them.

Mr. Humphrey represents the fourth generation in descent from a native of Holland, who, on account of persecution, went to Germany; he married a lady in Holland who was related to the Van Zandts, Bogardners and Anneka Jans family. The grandfather, John Humphrey, Sr., a blacksmith by trade, devoted himself mainly to farming in Canada. Owing to his connection with political affairs in that country his farm was confiscated and he was forced to leave. He removed to Johnstown, N. Y., and later to Baldwinsville, the same state, where he died. His son, John, Jr., was born six miles from Montreal, and became a moulder and foundryman in Baldwinsville, N. Y., but removed to the west in later years and settled near Adrian, Mich., where he died. He married Phidelia Darrow, who was born, of English parentage, in what is now Oneida County, N. Y., and died in Michigan.

Of their six children only three are living, our subject and two sisters.

The oldest of the family, Horace, was born at Baldwinsville, N. Y., April 6, 1828. From early boyhood he was familiar with work in a foundry, and when very young was accustomed to make and sell castings for people in his neighborhood. He was made a partner in the business and remained there for some years. In 1850 his father went to California, via the Isthmus of Panama, where he waited three months for transportation. During his father's absence he conducted the business. On the former's return, in 1851, he went to Cleveland, working there until the spring of 1852, when he returned to New York. Two years later, having been offered a position in Joliet, he came to this city and entered the foundry of Jones & Cogwin as foreman. He continued with the firm until they sold out two years later, after which he was employed at carriage-making. In 1861 he embarked in the foundry business for himself and during the almost forty years that have since elapsed he has been connected with the manufacturing interests of Joliet. He has given his time very closely to business matters, with no desire to enter politics and no wish to hold public office, his participation in public affairs being confined to the casting of a Republican vote. While in Baldwinsville, N. Y., he married Miss Lucinda Howe, daughter of Cyrel Howe, a farmer of that town. They became the parents of six children, four of whom are living, namely: Mrs. Ida Payne, of Joliet; Cora, widow of W. J. Evans, deceased; H. Fred and Harry B., who are connected with their father in business.



JOSEPH LADD HURD, deceased, formerly one of the successful grain dealers of Joliet, was born in Acton, Mass., May 18, 1821, of English descent, and a son of Isaac and Mary Ann (Heald) Hurd. His father, a native of Massachusetts, born July 27, 1756, was a son of Benjamin and Grace (Estabrook) Hurd, and a grandson of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Barlow) Hurd. The preceding generation was represented by Jacob Hurd, who came from England in an early day and founded the family at Charlestown, Mass. The genealogy of the Healds is traced back to John Heald, a native of Bunwick-on-Tweed, and a member of a family noted for the physical stature and mental attributes of its male members. He settled in Massachusetts in 1641, and his descendant, our subject's mother, was born in that state, February 7, 1786.

The education of our subject was obtained in the east. About 1858 he came to Joliet and at once became interested in the grain business, operating the Michigan Central elevator and owning other elevators on the same road. For some years he owned the village of Bloon, a small grain town, that is now a part of Chicago Heights. In his business he had abundant opportunities for the exercise of the sterling qualities of manhood and the exhibition of those habits which are worthy of emulation. By his integrity he won the confidence of his associates and was classed among the best citizens of his home town. In politics he was in sympathy with the Republican party and took great interest in supporting all political matters that tended to the improvement of the city or county. Fraternally he was a Chapter Mason, and in religion a Unitarian. Ere yet old age had come to him, his busy life ended and he passed from earth, June 12, 1876.

The lady whom Mr. Hurd married in Joliet, January 1, 1871, and who is still living in this city, bore the maiden name of Jannett A. Tullock, and is a daughter of Alexander and Ruth Eliza (Winters) Tullock. Her father, who was born in Argyleshire, Scotland, in 1812, and was the younger son in a family consisting of two sons and two daughters. As his father, James Tul-

lock, was a farmer of some means, he was given good educational advantages in his native land. After coming to the United States he traveled some, especially in New York and Michigan. Having learned the stone mason's trade, he gave his attention to it in different towns. On Christmas day of 1845, in Lucas County, Ohio, he married Miss Winters, who was born in Delaware County, N. Y., and who now owns the home where Mrs. Hurd resides in Joliet. Immediately after his marriage he came to Joliet, where he engaged in contracting. He helped to build the Jackson street dam that was used for almost fifty-five years, and he built the Hyde dam mill, also many residences, a few of which still stand. He witnessed and contributed to the early growth of Joliet and was one of its enterprising pioneers. Both he and his wife early identified themselves with the Presbyterian Church, and he was a contributor to church work as long as he lived. Fraternally he was connected with the Masons. From the time of his arrival in this city, in January, 1846, until his death, in 1857, he aided in local movements and gave his support to all plans for the benefit of the town. For his family residence he built a house on the corner of Scott and Jefferson streets, which was then in the suburbs of the city. Of the three children comprising his family, Mrs. Hurd was the eldest. The other daughter, Avelena D., married Llewellyn Baker and resides in Oakland, Cal.; the son, George A. Tullock, is engaged in the hardware business in Joliet. Mrs. Tullock is the only survivor of ten children forming the family of James and Electa (Eggleston) Winters. Her father, who served in the war of 1812, removed from New York to Lucas County, Ohio, where he cleared a farm and remained until his death. His wife, who was a daughter of Samuel Eggleston, was born in New York, of English descent, and died in Michigan.

Mrs. and Mrs. Hurd were the parents of two sons, viz.: Charles H., who graduated from the Joliet high school, and now owns a rice plantation in Louisiana; and William Ladd, a photographer in Joliet. Having spent her life in Joliet, Mrs. Hurd is well acquainted in the city and has

many warm friends among the best people here. She is connected with the Universalist Society. Various charitable enterprises have received her assistance and her philanthropic spirit leads her into active participation in movements of a benevolent nature.

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**W**ILLIAM H. SHIFFER, one of the leading farmers of Manhattan Township, was born in Clarion County, Pa., in 1845, and descends from German ancestors, who settled in Pennsylvania in an early day. His father, William, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1811, learned the miller's trade in his native county, and this occupation he followed there, at the same time owning and cultivating a farm. In 1857 he came to Illinois and settled on a farm near Plainfield, this county, but after a few years bought a farm near Lockport. In 1866 he disposed of his Illinois property and moved to Polk County, Iowa, but five years later he went to Rooks County, Kans., and entered a claim to one hundred and sixty acres of land. Clearing the ground, he put up farm buildings, placed the land under cultivation, built fences, erected a house, and in time made the farm a valuable place. He continued to reside there until his death at eighty years. During the existence of the Know-Nothing party he advocated its principles, and afterward became a Republican.

The marriage of William Shiffer united him with Elizabeth Near, who was born in Germany and was brought to the United States at eight years of age, growing to womanhood in Pennsylvania. They became the parents of twelve children, namely: John, of Joliet; Lewis, who lives near Plainfield, in Kendall County; Mary, the widow of Francis Delong, of Joliet; Sarah, wife of Sylvester Hannes, of Des Moines, Iowa; Solomon, whose home is in Joliet; Robert, of Des Moines, Iowa; William H.; Rebecca, the widow of William Haines, of Rooks County, Kans.; Priscilla, wife of Nelson Bellward; Simon, of Polk County, Iowa; Charles, residing in Colorado;

and Lavinia, who is the wife of John Rollins, of South Dakota. The mother of these children died in Will County when eighty-one years of age. Four of the sons were soldiers in the Civil war, and took part in its leading battles. John was a member of the One Hundred and Forty-second Pennsylvania Regiment. Lewis, Solomon and Robert belonged to the Forty-sixth Illinois Volunteers.

At the time the family settled in this county our subject was a boy of twelve years. He was educated in common schools and Plainfield College. In 1869 he came to Manhattan Township and purchased eighty acres on section 24. Four years later he sold that place, after which he spent three years in Manteno. In 1881 he settled on the old Young homestead on section 22, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres, and carries on a general farm and stock business. The most of the improvements on the farm have been made under his supervision. He is interested in the Manhattan Center Threshing Company, and for four years acted as manager of the machine. A Republican in politics, he has served his party as delegate to the county convention. For four years he held the office of justice of the peace, for one year served as township treasurer, for three years was commissioner of highways of the town of Manhattan, and for seventeen successive years was school director, during a part of the time serving as clerk of the board. In the United Evangelical Church at Manhattan he is steward, trustee, secretary and treasurer, and has also been assistant superintendent and a teacher of the Sunday-school. All movements for the benefit of the church have received his encouragement and assistance, as have also those enterprises calculated to advance the general welfare of the people.

March 17, 1873, Mr. Shiffer married Elizabeth, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Gardner) Karr. She was one of twelve children, six of whom are living, namely: Philip, a farmer in Nebraska; George, a farmer in Indiana; Martin and John, also residents of Indiana; Elizabeth and Kate, the latter being the wife of Mahlan Stroop. One of her brothers, Henry Karr, served



under General Grant in the Civil war, and died while in the army. In 1847 William Karr came from Germany and settled in Summit County, Ohio. In 1860 he established his home on a farm in Jackson Township, Will County, where he resided for six years. Later he made his home in Greengarden Township for three years. In 1870 he bought the farm where Mr. Shiffer now lives, and here he died at eighty years of age, and his wife when eighty-six. Mr. and Mrs. Shiffer have only one child living, Nettie, wife of Henry Eberhart, who is engaged in the lumber business in Manhattan.

**F**RANK STOWE VANDER BOGART, one of the most popular officials of the county, has made Joliet his home since November, 1889, and for some time served as deputy clerk under Henry R. Pohl. In 1892 the Republican convention nominated him by acclamation to the office of clerk of the circuit court, and he was elected by a majority of little less than four hundred. Four years later he was again nominated by acclamation and was elected by a majority of two thousand three hundred and eight, which was much the highest majority given any candidate of his ticket. His first term began in December, 1892, and the second will expire in December, 1900.

The family represented by our subject was founded in America by Dr. Hermine Myndert Vander Bogart, who came from Holland as ship surgeon of the sailer "Eendracht," in 1632, and settled in Manhattan Island. From him descended William Henry Vander Bogart, Sr., who was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., and about 1842 brought his family to Illinois, settling in Florence Township, Will County, where he was a pioneer farmer. He died at his homestead four miles south of Wilmington. His son, William Henry, Jr., was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., and was eight years of age when the family came west. A farmer and stock dealer, he also gave

some attention to the meat business, having a market in Wilmington for many years. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Twentieth Illinois Infantry and served until he was taken ill and sent to the hospital at Cape Girardeau, Mo., where he was honorably discharged. His brothers, Walter and James, enlisted in the Thirty-ninth Illinois Infantry, in which the latter served as a sharpshooter until the close of the war; Walter was killed during the early part of the war while acting as a picket upon Morris Island. He, like his brothers, served with fidelity to the Union and proved his loyalty to his country in the hour of need. He is now connected with the Grand Army of the Republic and fraternally is a Mason. At sixty-five years of age he is now living retired from business. His wife was Laura J. Stowe, daughter of Cyrus Stowe, who removed from Vermont to New York, thence to the vicinity of Niles, Mich., from there to St. Joe, the same state, and finally settled in Wilmington Township, this county, in an early day.

In a family of six sons and three daughters, all still living, our subject was next to the oldest. He was born in Wilmington, this county, March 15, 1868, and was educated in the public high school of his home town. In 1886 he went to Chicago, where he was employed as bookkeeper for John G. Miller & Co., wholesale clothiers. Later he went back to Wilmington and from there came to Joliet. In addition to his duties as circuit clerk he is treasurer and a stockholder and director of the Hercules Gold Mining Company, which owns three hundred and eighty-five acres of land two and one-half miles from Deadwood. With his father-in-law, Wilbur L. Keeney, he bought the Naperville electric light plant soon after it had been established, and this they built up, he acting as president of the company and his father-in-law as secretary, treasurer and manager. In politics he has always been an ardent Republican, and takes an intense interest in the success of his party. Until the Joliet camp of Sons of Veterans disbanded he was one of its active members.

The marriage of Mr. Vander Bogart took place



in Naperville, Ill., and united him with Miss Nellie M. Keeney, who was born in East Glastonbury, Conn., and in 1874 came to Wilmington, Ill., with her parents, who in 1892 removed to Naperville, and now reside in Joliet. To their union one child has been born, a daughter, Ruth Helen.

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**W**ILLIAM SIMPSON, deputy assessor of Joliet, has for some years been an active participant in the public life of the city. He is a firm believer in Republican principles and a staunch supporter of the men and measures put forward by the party. With the enthusiasm that is one of his attributes he has entered heartily into the field of politics. During his period of service as a member of the county committee he was for a time its assistant secretary. Formerly he held the chairmanship of the city central committee of the party, and is still one of its members, besides being identified with the work of the township committee. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Illinois State League of Republican Clubs.

The Simpson family is of English ancestry. Mr. Simpson's father, Butler, was born in London, England, and in early life came to the United States with his father, settling on a farm in Joliet Township, this county. In 1862 he came to Joliet. During a portion of the Civil war he was employed by the government in the repairing of wagons. On returning to Joliet he secured employment in Davidson's quarry. In 1865 he bought property on South Chicago street, where he carried on the business of wagon-making. Later he was interested in a grocery with his sons. He married Mary Jane Coates, who was born in Scarborough, England. They still reside in Joliet, as do also their five living sons, viz.: William, Frederick, Walter, George and Harry.

In this city our subject was born June 28, 1863, and here his education was obtained in the public schools and Prof. Russell's Business College.

For five years he served as an apprentice to the carpenter's trade under Dan Winters, after which he followed this occupation for six years, during the last two of which he engaged in contracting and building. In 1889 he bought an interest in a grocery at No. 303 South Chicago street, but after nine months sold to his partner, Mr. Murphy, and then established the grocery house of Simpson Brothers in his father's store building, continuing there for three years, when he sold out.

When Robert J. Morrison was elected township assessor in 1894 Mr. Simpson received the appointment of deputy, which he has held ever since, with the exception of the year spent as keeper at the Illinois state penitentiary under Major McClaughrey. The latter position he resigned after thirteen months on account of ill health. In 1896 he was deputy collector under T. N. Williamson and two years later held the same position with William Winckler. In 1898 he received the appointment of city sealer, which he held for one year until a change was made in the mayor's office. He is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. Possessing a genial, companionable disposition he has won many friends among the people of the city, and is popular both in public affairs and social circles.

The marriage of Mr. Simpson took place in Joliet October 20, 1885, and united him with Miss Josephine D. Wheeler, who was born in Frankfort Township. The only child of their union, Lawrence F., died September 20, 1897, at the age of nine years and nine months. Mrs. Simpson is a daughter of Benajah and Elizabeth (Sanders) Wheeler, natives respectively of New York and Vermont. She was one of eight children, all but one of whom are living; of the survivors she is the oldest and the only one in Joliet. Her paternal grandfather, D. N. Wheeler, removed from New York during the latter part of the '30s and settled in Frankfort Township, this county, remaining there until 1897. He then went to Virginia, Neb., where he has since lived retired from active labors. Benajah Wheeler removed to Missouri in 1871 and is now engaged in farming in Grundy County, that state. His wife

was a daughter of Frank and Sarah Sanders, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, but settled in this county prior to the '40s, and has since made his home in Greengarden Township, Will County, where he owns a section of land.

JOHN F. SKEEL, clerk of the board of school inspectors and clerk of the board of education of Joliet Township, is a descendant of a Welsh family, whose first representatives in this country were two brothers that settled in Connecticut. His grandfather, Nathan Skeel, a native of Connecticut, removed to Salt Point, near Syracuse, N. Y., and engaged in the manufacture of pumps. During the war of 1812 he served in the defense of Sackett's Harbor. At an early date he brought his family to Cincinnati, Ohio, and in 1830 settled in Hennepin, Ill., where he manufactured pumps. At the time of the Black Hawk war his son, Linus B., enlisted in the army, where he showed himself to be a man of courage and hardihood. The active life of Linus Skeel was passed in farm pursuits near Hennepin, and he was successful in his undertakings. On retiring from active labors and business cares he removed to Gibson City, Ford County, Ill., and there his death occurred in 1897, when he was eighty-six years of age. During the Civil war his farm was a station on the underground railroad and more than one runaway slave was helped by him on his way to freedom. He was a devout and leading member of the Congregational Church and one of the principal workers in the congregation in his locality.

Twice married, Linus B. Skeel had five children by his first wife, and two of these are living. One, Oliver, was a soldier under Sherman during the Civil war. The second wife was Flora Morrison, who was born in Argyleshire, Scotland, near the mouth of the Clyde, and who is now seventy-four years of age. She was a daughter of Donald Morrison, a seafaring man, who served in the British navy during the naval war between England and Russia in 1799 and lost an arm in an action; afterward he was retired on a pension. Our subject was one of the seven children born

to Linus B. and Flora Skeel, and, of these, four are now living, he being the youngest son. He was born near Hennepin, Putnam County, Ill., December 24, 1860, and was educated in Granville high school and Wheaton College, graduating from the latter in 1883 with the degree of A. B. Afterward he engaged in the newspaper business at Highmore, S. Dak., being editor of the *Dakota Capital* for one year. Later he taught in the city schools at Tama, Iowa, for one year. While there he married, in 1885, Miss Flora Birdsell, daughter of William H. Birdsell, then of South Dakota, but now of Lockport, Ill.

In 1885 Mr. Skeel returned to Granville as principal of the high school in which he had studied some years before. The next year the county board of supervisors appointed him to fill a vacancy in the office of superintendent of schools of Putnam County. After the expiration of the term he came to Joliet in 1887, where for a year he was cashier and bookkeeper for the Locey coal mines. For eighteen months he held a similar position with the Barrett Hardware Company. For a year he was bookkeeper with the Illinois Steel Company, after which he was bookkeeper and cashier with Bishop & Lambert for two years, continuing with them until January, 1893. After the consolidation he was employed in the Chicago office during the World's Fair. In the fall of 1893 he went west, intending to settle in Idaho or Washington, but, after an attack of mountain fever, he decided that Illinois was preferable for a place of residence. He was still quite ill when he came back to this state. On regaining his health, in 1894 he became principal of the Broadway school, Joliet, continuing there until he was appointed clerk of the board of school inspectors in July, 1896. In the spring of 1899 the establishment of the township high school was voted almost unanimously by the people and the school board appointed him their clerk. These two positions take his entire time, and their duties he discharges in a manner satisfactory to all concerned. He is identified with the First Presbyterian Church, in which he is a ruling elder. He and his wife reside in a house that he built at No. 120 Dewey avenue.



**W**ILLIAM MORGAN, who is one of the large farmers and stock-raisers of Jackson Township, was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., June 24, 1844, a son of Moses and Eliza A. (Storrs) Morgan. He was one of five children, of whom, besides himself, two survive, viz.: Sidney and Emily, wife of Cornelius McClure, of Manhattan Township, this county. His father, who was born in Vermont August 15, 1815, settled in New York state when a young man and engaged in farming in St. Lawrence County, but in 1849 he came west to Illinois, settling in Kendall County twelve miles west of Joliet. His means were small; in fact, he had but \$68 at the time of his arrival in Kendall County. Not having sufficient means to buy a farm he operated rented land for four years. Next he settled in Joliet Township, this county, three and one-half miles southeast of Joliet, where he remained for a year. In March, 1855, he came to the place where his son, our subject, still resides. Here he purchased one hundred and twenty-eight acres of land and devoted his energies to stock-raising and farming. More than usual success rewarded his exertions. Constantly he added to his possessions, investing the products of one farm in the purchase of another. He was so successful that at the time of his death he owned thirteen farms. Personally he was a man of fine qualities, possessing the hospitality of the typical pioneer and showing in every act that his code of honor was the highest. His personal friends were many, and he won the regard of every associate. Politically he was an ardent Republican, but always refused to accept nomination for any office. While he was not identified with any denomination he attended and supported the Methodist Episcopal Church. On the homestead where he had so successfully labored for more than thirty years he died, August 20, 1878. His name well deserves perpetuation in the list of pioneers of the county; for while he was not one of the earliest settlers, there were comparatively few here at the time of his arrival, and he experienced all the hardships of life in a new country. It is but justice to him to say that his success was not due to outside help, nor was it

the result of what we call "luck." It came to him through the exercise of determination, good judgment, perseverance and energy. He never entered the alluring field of speculation, but worked only in his chosen occupation of agriculture, and the result proved that he made no mistake in his life-work. His wife, who was a daughter of William and Catherine (Thew) Storrs, was born in Clinton County, N. Y., July 13, 1817, and died in Will County, Ill., December 5, 1885.

Since he was eleven years of age our subject has made his home in Jackson Township. Growing up on a farm he acquired a thorough knowledge of agriculture and, as the occupation suited his tastes, he has always continued farm pursuits. He and his brother Sidney, whose farming and stock interests are in conjunction, pay taxes on fifteen hundred acres of land, and are among the most prosperous men in their section of the county. In political views he is a staunch Republican but not a partisan. He is not connected with any denomination, but contributes to the support of the Methodist Church, toward the doctrines of which he inclines. In 1877 Mr. Morgan married Maria E. Ellenwood, who was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y. In 1870 she came to this county with her parents, Alfred and Lydia (Morgan) Ellenwood, and settled in Florence Township, where her father died eleven years afterward. Her mother now makes her home with her son George. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan consists of seven children, namely: Eliza A., Oscar, Lydia, Lloyd L., Ernest A., Amber L., and infant daughter.

**A**CKER RULAND. Homer Township is greatly indebted for its present wealth and high standing to the intelligent and capable farmers who have been instrumental in developing its agricultural resources. As a member of the farming community, who has contributed to its material advancement and who has been especially active in the promotion of its



live-stock interests, mention belongs to Mr. Ruland, who owns the family homestead of one hundred and fourteen acres. Here he was born in 1856, and here his life thus far has been spent. He is one of the largest raisers of thoroughbred sheep and cattle in the county and owns some valuable registered stock, having made several importations from England of Shropshire sheep. Besides his other interests, at this writing he holds the office of deputy sheriff. For six years he was highway commissioner of Homer Township, to which office he was elected on the Republican ticket. For sixteen years he served as a member of the school board of his district. He is a director of the Homer Mutual Fire Insurance Company and secretary and treasurer of the Will County Highway Commissioners' Association.

Our subject's grandfather, Acker Ruland, was born in Rhode Island, and in an early day migrated to Ohio, where he conducted a large paper mill near Cincinnati for several years. From there he moved to Tippecanoe County, Ind., and purchased six hundred acres of land, which he operated successfully. He remained there until his death, when sixty-five years of age. He had a brother, John, who served in the continental army during the Revolutionary war. His ancestors were French and were early settlers of Rhode Island. He married Charlotte Bolster, a native of Rhode Island, and they had seven children, but all are dead excepting Manley. In 1848 three of their sons, Charles, Manley and Acker, came from Indiana to Will County, Ill., and took up adjoining farms in Homer Township, where they energetically began work as agricul-

turists. Soon after their arrival Charles met his death by accident. Manley continued to make his home in this locality until 1870, when he removed to Butler County, Kans., and there he has since resided. Acker, our subject's father and the third of the brothers who came together to Will County, was born near Cincinnati, Ohio. In time he became a prosperous farmer of the township. He was also a physician of the old school and had a large practice in this neighborhood. At the time of his death, when forty-two years of age, he was well-to-do. He married Maria, daughter of Henry Glassford, and a native of Pennsylvania, her father having come to that state from Ireland when seven years of age. By her marriage to Mr. Ruland five children were born, namely: Sarah, who is the wife of James Meek, of Chicago; Eliza, who married G. H. Page; Helen, who married G. H. Paddock; Maria, wife of Dr. S. R. Cowger; and Acker, the subject of this sketch.

Having passed his life in this township, our subject is well acquainted with the people here; and, as he is a man of the utmost integrity and the highest principles of honor, he is respected by all to whom he is known. In fraternal relations he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. He has a high reputation as a man of intelligence, and the township is fortunate to number among its citizens a man of his character and ability. In 1878 he was united in marriage to Miss Susan Harris, who was born in Lockport, this county, a daughter of Benjamin Harris. They have four daughters, Mabel, Ethel and Edna (twins), and Mildred.





*Geo F. Gurney*



## GEORGE F. GURNEY.

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**G**EORGE F. GURNEY. It is solely through his determination and perseverance of character that Mr. Gurney has become known as one of the wealthy land owners of this county. When he came here, in the spring of 1845, he was a boy of thirteen, the oldest of a family of three sons and three daughters, whose father had been defrauded of his money, and who were therefore early obliged to begin the battle of life for themselves. He found Joliet a small hamlet, whose few inhabitants eked out a precarious subsistence, but with the sturdy resolution characteristic of pioneers remained hopeful and with the far-seeing eye of faith worked for the benefit of future generations. Owing to his father's ill fortune he was early obliged to become self-supporting and to contribute to the maintenance of the family. During 1847 and 1848 he worked at canal construction. When the canal was completed, on the 4th of July, 1848, he towed the first canal boat out of Joliet, going to Chicago for Henry Fish and returning with a load of lumber for Otis Hardy. During the summer of the same year he went to Grundy County and, with seven yoke of oxen, worked at breaking prairie soil, but in the fall returned to this county. Buying teams of his own, in the spring of the next year he began to break prairie and followed that occupation for a few years, after which he herded cattle for Smith, Hatton & Rogers. Turning his attention to agricultural pursuits, he became the owner of one of the finest farms in the county, the value of which was due entirely to his careful cultivation and judicious oversight. He is still the owner of large tracts of farm land, but

since 1894 has been living retired in Joliet, where he built and occupies a residence at No. 505 Union street.

Mr. Gurney was born in Gloucestershire, England, July 2, 1832, a son of William and Ruth (Hooper) Gurney. His father, who was the son of a ship chandler and vessel owner, brought his family to the United States in 1844, and after a short sojourn in Cook County, Ill., in the spring of 1845 came to Joliet. A few years later he died in Kankakeetown, this county. His wife died in Channahon. Of their children Edward E. and Henry H. died in Wilmington; Louise is married and lives in Kankakee County; Matilda, Mrs. Hyde, is in Canon City, Colo.; and Selina, Mrs. Buss, makes her home in Florence Township. The family crossed the ocean from Bristol to New York on a sailing vessel, spending seven weeks on the voyage, and from New York proceeded up the Hudson, thence via the Erie canal to Buffalo, and from that city by the lakes to Chicago.

In 1859 the subject of this sketch bought two hundred acres in Wilton Township, thirteen miles southeast of Joliet, purchasing from the Illinois Central road. Two years later he settled on the land and began its improvement. He remained there until 1867, when he removed to a farm of four hundred and eighty-six acres, of which two hundred and twenty-six and two-thirds acres are in Manhattan Township and the remainder in Jackson Township. This continued to be his home until 1894. He gave his attention to its cultivation. Every improvement of a first-class farm was to be found on his place, and through his supervision and wise management the estate was made profit-

able. He is still the owner of nine hundred acres, the larger part of which is under cultivation. He recently sold one hundred and forty-six acres, prior to which he owned ten hundred and forty-six acres, including, besides his place before named, three hundred and twenty acres on sections 34 and 27, one hundred and sixty acres one-half mile west, and eighty acres adjoining the last-named place. Besides this he owns one-half section of land in Wright County, Iowa. During the years of his active farm life he made a specialty of the stock business, and bought and raised high-grade and full-blooded Durham cattle, imported Norman and also standard-bred horses, having as many as sixty head of horses on his place at one time. His son drives what is said to be the finest pair of English shire horses in Manhattan Township, and these were raised by our subject.

In Wilmington, this county, Mr. Gurney married Miss Eliza Brydon, who was born in Liverpool, England, a daughter of George and Eliza (Ballentine) Brydon, all natives of Scotland. Her paternal grandfather, James Brydon, was a farmer, as was also her maternal grandfather, George Ballentine, and both lived in Roxburyshire. Mrs. Gurney was one of two children, the other being James, who was a soldier in the Forty-second Illinois Infantry and was wounded in battle; he is now living in Chatsworth, Ill.

Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Gurney we note the following: Frances Ruth, who was educated in Will County, married Franklin P. Losh, a native of Center County, Pa., and of German descent; they moved to Iowa in 1893 and settled in Wright County, where they and their children, Clarence A., Edgar J., Elsie E. and Harry G., now live. The second daughter of Mr. Gurney was Emma, now deceased. The third, Elsie Augusta, married Charles F. Pohlman, a native of Will County, Ill., and son of William and Amelia Pohlman, natives of Germany and old settlers of this county; they have had three children, Arno George (deceased), Alma Ray and Florence. The oldest son of Mr. Gurney is Elmer George, who married Mary F. Norton, daughter of William and Eliza (Good-

enough) Norton, natives respectively of New York and Indiana, but for years residents of Will County, where their daughter was born. The second son, Arno James, married Alice Voorhees, daughter of Ralph and Adeline (Young) Voorhees, natives of Ohio; they have one daughter, Maude Esther. The sixth child of our subject is Eliza M., who married Albert Lichtenwalter, a native of Will County, and a son of Henry H. and Leah (Geiss) Lichtenwalter, natives respectively of Ohio and Pennsylvania; they have two children, Gladys Eva and Clayton Gurney Lichtenwalter. The youngest daughter of our subject, Nellie Josephine, married Oscar Rhodes Myers, a native of Wheatland, this county, and a son of Jacob and Elmira (Rhodes) Myers, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Cleveland, Ohio. Our subject's youngest child, Otto Henry, married Clara E. Geiss, daughter of Hiram and Malinda (Whitson) Geiss, natives of Pennsylvania. The youngest son and his wife live on the Gurney homestead. The family are connected with the Presbyterian Church.

During the early years of his residence in this county Mr. Gurney was quite active in educational and public affairs. Formerly a Democrat, at the time of Fremont's campaign he transferred his allegiance to the Republican party, which he assisted in organizing in his county. Frequently he was elected to serve as delegate to conventions and as member of important political committees, and in other ways, his service to his party was helpful to its interests. For six years he was a school director in Jackson Township and his influence was apparent in the building up of the schools of his township.

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**T**IMOTHY GORMAN, who is a well-known general merchant of Channahon, has made his home in this county since 1858. He was born in County Mayo, Ireland, in 1829, a son of Patrick and Margaret (Kelly) Gorman.



lifelong residents of County Mayo, where his father followed the occupation of a brick and stone-mason. When a boy our subject had few advantages. His life was one of constant toil from an early age. At fifteen years he was bound out to the tailor's trade, the plan being for him to serve five years, but at the expiration of two and one-half years, owing to a panic in the money market and a consequent depression in business, he was released from his engagement. Having a brother who was a tailor in Birmingham, England, he went to that city, but found that there, as in Ireland, times were hard and work scarce. He spent three years in England, working at various occupations in different parts of the country.

In May, 1849, Mr. Gorman took passage on the sailing vessel "James H. Shepherd" for America and landed in New York on the 12th of June, after a voyage of five weeks. In New York he finished his apprenticeship to the tailor's trade and for nine years remained in that city and in Yonkers and Williamsburg, working at the occupation. The year 1858 found him in Will County, Ill., where he worked for three years at tailoring in Joliet. Next he removed to Channahon, where for a time he worked at his trade. In 1871 he established the mercantile business which he has since conducted. Being a man of good business ability he has met with considerable success and is one of the substantial men of the village.

The marriage of Mr. Gorman, in 1854, united him with Miss Mary Lennon, who was a native of County Armagh, Ireland, and a daughter of John and Judith (Corwin) Lennon. After the death of her father in Ireland, her mother brought the family to America. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Gorman twelve children were born, of whom ten are living, viz.: Peter, a blacksmith in Denver, Colo., who is married and has three daughters; Martin T., of Chicago, who is married and has two children, Timothy and Mary Edna; Francis, a merchant of Wolcott, Colo., whose family consists of five children, Harry, Anna, Francis L., Marguerite C. and Helen W.; Patrick H., a steam-fitter living in

Chicago; John, also a steam-fitter in that city; Anthony, who is connected with his brother, Francis, in merchandising; Margaret, a teacher in the public schools of Will County; Timothy J., who is in Pullman, Ill.; Jeremiah, who is with his older brothers in Wolcott, Colo.; and Mathew, who is with the American Insurance Company of Newark, N. J., Rockford, Ill., being the headquarters for the western department.

In politics Mr. Gorman is a staunch Democrat. Under the two administrations of President Cleveland he served as postmaster of Channahon and for ten years, altogether, he filled the office of town clerk. During the existence of the Odd Fellows' Lodge at Minooka he held membership in it, but upon its disbandment did not transfer his membership to Joliet, the distance being too great for him to attend the meetings regularly. He is a well-known citizen of Channahon. As village trustee, which office he now fills, he favors plans for the benefit of the town and the promotion of its interests.

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CHESTER S. ALLEN. On the western bluff of the Desplaines valley, in Lockport Township, is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Allen. Their brick residence, erected by Mr. Allen in 1879, not only affords them a comfortable dwelling place, but also gives a fine view of the valley stretching beyond. On the farm will be noticed a large number of sheep, the Oxford Downs leading numerically. There are also several full blooded English horses, among them a colt two years and five months old, weighing sixteen hundred and thirty pounds. For several years after 1870 Mr. Allen was a heavy dealer, wholesale and retail, in ice, cutting the product from an artificial pond on his place, and continuing in the business until that part of the farm was condemned by the drainage board.

The father of Mr. Allen, Martin, a native and lifelong resident of Vermont, served in many local offices, and in politics was first a Whig



and later a Free-Soiler. His occupation was that of a farmer. He and his brother, Reuben, were the principal members of the Goshen Methodist Episcopal Church, in Addison County, and helped to build its house of worship. However, owing to his views on the slavery question, in 1846 he identified himself with the Wesleyan Methodists and built for them a church that is still standing and in constant use. His son, Wilson, aided in re-shingling the building in 1895. By his marriage to Hannah Smith he had five children, namely: Eliza, deceased; Wilson, a farmer at Ripon, Wis.; Andre M., deceased; Chester S.; and Luther, of Kansas. The grandfather, Noah Allen, settled in Goshen in an early day, removing there from another part of the same state.

The subject of this sketch was born in the town of Goshen, Vt., February 20, 1830. He remained on the home farm until he was twenty-four. For some years he was in very poor health, the result of an attack of measles when he was eighteen. As soon as he recovered sufficiently to start out for himself he began farming, and this occupation he has followed ever since. In 1864 he came to Illinois and settled on the place he still owns. Since then he has bought and sold considerable land. In politics he was formerly a Republican, but now votes with the Prohibitionists. For the past thirty-four years he has been an officer in the Methodist Episcopal Church of Lockport, and until 1897 was also connected with the Sunday-school work.

A remarkable evidence of the over-ruling Providence that saves a life when God has further need of it in the world, is shown in Mr. Allen's career. His life was preserved in a moment of greatest peril. May 11, 1882, he drove two teams to Joliet, for the purpose of securing drain tile. When he arrived there he found the tile he had previously selected was gone, so he started through the tile factory, looking at the kilns on each side. The place where the elevator worked was six or eight inches lower than the path where he was walking. This fact he did not notice, and when he stepped into it he was thrown for-

ward into the elevator pit. At that instant the elevator (weighing twelve hundred pounds) dropped with two men in it. They jumped from the elevator just before it struck. The foreman saw the falling elevator and a man under it. He gathered his men, lifted the elevator and pulled Mr. Allen out. When the latter came to his senses he saw ten or twelve men looking at him, as if a dead man had come to life. Not a bone or a blood-vessel was broken. After a little time the men loaded up his tile for him and he returned home. He did not get out again for two weeks, and was lame and bruised for three months, but the fact that he escaped uninjured is certainly remarkable. The reason for the falling of the elevator was the breaking of a bolt connected with the main shaft, so that the elevator could not be controlled. Had Mr. Allen fallen a second later he would have been completely crushed.

The maiden name of our subject's wife was Prudence S. Baker. Her father, Anthony, son of Anthony, Sr., of English extraction, was born in Rhode Island, October 9, 1788. He married Prudence Gaines, who was born in Massachusetts, August 15, 1786. Both had moved to Sudbury, Vt., and they were married there in 1809. From that place they moved to a farm in Goshen, Addison County, Vt., where they lived for many years. He was prominent in local affairs and held numerous offices until failing eye-sight compelled him to withdraw from such work. He was active in the Democratic party, and later was an Abolitionist. Both he and his wife were connected with the Christian Church. Of their ten children two died in infancy. Eight attained mature years, married and had families. Their names and dates of birth are as follows: Almon G., November 27, 1810; Anthony S., July 9, 1813; Polly M., April 25, 1815; Oliver H. P., December 11, 1816; Olive S., April 23, 1818; Loren H., March 26, 1821 (a soldier in the Civil war); Harry H., December 3, 1826; and Prudence S., April 13, 1829. In 1850 the parents sold their farm and moved to Forestdale, Vt., where they spent their remaining years. The father died July 25, 1873, and the mother November 29, 1874. Mrs. Prudence Allen was born in the

town of Goshen, Addison County, Vt., received a good education, and began to teach school at the age of fifteen years. She was married to Andrew M. Allen in her home town April 23, 1850, but her husband died of consumption, July 14, 1851, at the age of twenty-three years, nine months and nineteen days. Afterward for two years she taught school, making her home with her parents when not engaged in teaching. Her second marriage took place October 24, 1854, and united her to Chester S. Allen, a brother of her first husband. They lived in Goshen for nine years after their marriage and then moved to Illinois, settling on their present homestead, March 10, 1864. They are the parents of two children. Their son, Delbert C., who was born in Goshen, Vt., May 19, 1858, is now a farmer at Tecumseh, Neb. Their daughter, Etta P., who was born in Lockport, September 13, 1868, is the wife of Allen T. Dille, and resides in Mitchell, Iowa.

The lives of Mr. and Mrs. Allen have been full of useful lessons of devotion to the cause of the church and humanity. They can look back on the past years and be satisfied with the view. As the shadows lengthen in life's evening, and the rough places become smoothed, the thought may dwell with them that a new generation will revere their memory, and their names will live in the historical records of Will County.

**N**ATHANIEL, PAGE. The record of a useful life is worthy of being perpetuated in the annals of biography. In writing this memorial of a good man, long since passed to his eternal reward, we are doing an act of simple justice to one whose active life was inseparably associated with the pioneer history of our county, and one whose influence for good was felt in his home neighborhood even after he had passed from it. As an early settler he participated in the work of clearing and cultivating a portion of the county's fine farming region.

In an early day Nathaniel Page, Sr., migrated from Massachusetts to Vermont and settled in Windsor County, where he died at an advanced age. Nathaniel, Jr., was born in the latter county in 1788 and remained on a farm near his birthplace for many years, but in 1838 he removed to Will County, Ill. His first location was in Lockport, where he followed the carpenter's trade for a year. In 1839 he moved to New Lenox Township, settled upon a farm and began the clearing of land. Upon the farm which he improved the remainder of his life was passed, and there he died, February 4, 1866, at the age of seventy-eight years.

During his residence in Vermont Mr. Page married Nancy Gifford, a native of that state, born in the same year as himself; she died in 1865, at the age of nearly seventy-seven years. Their oldest son, Harvey, who was born in Vermont, came to this county in 1858 and engaged in farming here for twelve years. About 1870 he moved to Indiana, where he cultivated farm land. He died in that state in 1886, at the age of seventy-two years, leaving a widow and two children, Archie, and Catherine, who is the widow of Benjamin Thomas. The second son, Seneca, who was born in Windsor County, Vt., came to Will County, Ill., in 1837, being the first of the family to remove west. Much of his after life was passed in New Lenox Township, where he cultivated a farm and was also active in local affairs. He died in 1876, at the age of sixty years, leaving a widow and three children who now reside in Joliet. The third son, Austin, was born in Vermont in 1819 and migrated to Illinois in 1839; here he spent the remaining years of his life, following the carpenter's trade and general farming until his death in 1890, at seventy-one years of age. Two daughters, Mary and Nancy, died in girlhood, and a son, Charles, born in 1826, came to Will County, Ill., in 1839, and died here in 1856, at twenty-eight years of age. The only surviving member of the family is Miss Oranda Page, who has made her home in this county since 1839; she took care of her parents during their declining years, and has since continued to reside on her place of thirty acres in



New Lenox. During her young womanhood she taught two terms of school, and she has continued to the present to be deeply interested in educational and literary work. As one of the pioneers of the county she has shown great interest in its development and is justly proud of its high standing among the galaxy of the counties of the state.

**G**EORGE B. DAVIS, one of the earliest settlers of Channahon Township, was born in Montgomery County, N. Y., May 7, 1821, a son of Joseph and Martha (Burlingame) Davis, of whose nine children he and his brother, Van Dyke, of Kankakee County, Ill., are the sole survivors. His father, a native of Long Island, born in 1787, removed with his parents to Albany County, N. Y., and after his marriage settled on a farm in Montgomery County. In 1824 he removed to Rensselaer County, and from there, in 1836, turned his face westward to Illinois. In the fall of that year he came to Channahon Township, Will County, and in the spring of the next year his family joined him here. A short time later he purchased a tract of land. However, before he had moved to his new home he was taken ill and died September 30, 1838. His parents, Ezekiel and Lois (Tripp) Davis, were probably natives of Long Island, but there are no records concerning their birth. They moved to Albany County, N. Y., and lived upon a farm there until they passed away, in advanced years. The maternal grandparents of our subject were Roger and Elizabeth (Sweet) Burlingame, the latter a native of Rhode Island. The former was a sea captain in early life, but after his marriage he settled down to farming in Albany County, N. Y., where he died of yellow fever a few years later.

At the time our subject came to this county he was sixteen years of age. After his father's death in 1838, he and his brothers carried on the farm. January 12, 1843, he married Miss Olive Comstock, a native of Tompkins County, N. Y.,

and the daughter of Alexander McGregor and Esther (Saltmarsh) Comstock. To their marriage eight children were born, four of whom are now living, namely: G. Henry, who for ten years has been storekeeper in the street car department at Pullman, Ill.; Sadie, at home; Oliver, a practicing physician and surgeon of Joliet; and Wilbur B., a farmer of Channahon Township.

Two years after his marriage Mr. Davis purchased eighty acres of his present farm and settled thereon. He has been a progressive and energetic farmer. From time to time he added to his farm until it numbered two hundred and forty acres, but in recent years he has sold his son ninety-five acres, which leaves in his farm one hundred and forty-five acres. For years he was school director and also trustee of the school fund. He is an ardent Republican in politics. Not caring for elective offices, he has always refused to allow his name to be used as a candidate for any but minor offices. For forty years he has served as a trustee of the Methodist Church. He is one of the best known and most highly esteemed men of Channahon Township, where his hospitality, genial disposition, upright life and generous nature have won him hosts of friends during the more than sixty years of his residence here.

Mrs. Davis traces her lineage to the von Komstohk (or Comstock) family, of Frankfort-on-the-Main in Germany. Tradition states that the family was founded in America by three brothers from Wales or England, where the family had gone from Germany owing to their connection with some political strife that rendered further residence in their native land perilous. The lineage is traced back to a noble ancestry prior to 1547. William, who founded this branch of the family in America, settled in Wethersfield, and thence went to New London, Conn. His son, Samuel, had a son, Samuel, who was the father of Hezediah Comstock. The latter's son, Gideon, moved from Rhode Island to Connecticut. Adam, son of Gideon, was born in Rhode Island. He was a man of stalwart physique, six feet in height, well proportioned and dignified, in de-



portment grave and gentlemanly, well calculated to command the respect of all who approached him. Before the Revolution he was one of the king's justices of the peace and a major in his army. On the breaking out of the war, however, he entered the American army, with the determination to use all his energies in the defense of his country. In the language of his biographer, "He was a soldier by nature, powerful in body, of undaunted courage, an enthusiastic patriot, and a good disciplinarian. He had the confidence of Washington, who raised him to the rank of colonel in the continental line. At the brilliant victory of Red Bank he was the officer of the day; alternately with General Smith of Maryland, he commanded at the successful defense of Mud Fort (now Fort Mifflin). He also shared the various sufferings of his brave companions-in-arms at Valley Forge. After this, from a domestic affliction, he resigned his commission, which General Washington reluctantly accepted, giving him an honorable discharge from the army."

Soon after the close of the war Colonel Comstock was elected to the legislature of his native state. In 1785 he moved to Schenectady, N. Y. One year later he purchased and moved to a farm in Greenfield (now Corinth) Township, Saratoga County, where he made his home up to the time of his death. While a citizen of New York he was for many years a member of the New York assembly and senate, in which bodies he exercised a controlling influence by reason of his recognized ability. For many years he was a judge of the court of common pleas in and for the county of Saratoga, to which office he was peculiarly adapted. He was not bred to the profession of law, but his strong mind and investigating habits, his sound judgment and competent knowledge of science, were abundantly manifest in his judicial opinions. He died April 10, 1819.

Rev. Alexander McGregor Comstock, M. D., was born in Greenfield Township, Saratoga County, N. Y., September 9, 1788, and was one of the seventeen children of Adam and Margaret (McGregor) Comstock. He was a Methodist

Episcopal minister, a graduate in medicine, and a farmer. During the war of 1812 he served as a surgeon. He was a man of unusual intellectual powers and industrious habits. His life seemed to be squared by the proverb, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." In each of his three vocations he met with success. In 1835 he made his first trip to Illinois. The next year he brought his family to Joliet, where he practiced medicine and acted as a local minister. In 1837 he settled on a farm in Troy Township, but in 1841 returned to Joliet, where he died July 9, 1854. In politics he was a Whig. He married Esther Saltmarsh, who was born of Holland descent, in Columbia County, N. Y., and died in Joliet in 1874. They had six children, five of whom came to Joliet, and four attained maturity: Mrs. Olive Davis; Adam; Mary, who lives in Joliet; and Grover, who died in this city. The only surviving son, Adam Comstock, is a well-known civil engineer and surveyor of Joliet. A. M. Comstock, M. D., had a brother, Rev. O. C. Comstock, M. D., who was a man of remarkable gifts and attainments. Besides being a minister in the Baptist Church and a practicing physician, he was a member of the New York legislature, a judge, a member of congress and the chaplain of that body for some years.

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**W**ILLIAM F. HUTCHINSON, of Joliet, came to this city in the fall of 1886 as deputy county clerk under H. H. Stossen, continuing in that capacity for two terms. In the fall of 1894, on the Republican ticket, he was elected to the office by a majority of twenty-two hundred and eighty-five. Four years later he was re-elected by a majority of over three thousand, which was the largest vote ever polled for a county clerk in Will County. As clerk he has been systematic in his work, energetic, and attentive to every detail, and has won the confidence of the voters of the county. He is also serving as clerk of the board of supervisors, and,

under the new law, is a member of the board of review. During his residence in Monee he was for fourteen years treasurer of Monee Township, and, on the incorporation of the village of Monee, served for one term as clerk of the village board.

The Hutchinson family originated in England, but has been represented in America since Puritan times, and one of its most distinguished members was Governor Hutchinson, a colonial governor of Massachusetts. Rev. William Hutchinson, our subject's father, was a son of Ebenezer Hutchinson and was born in New Hampshire, where his active life was spent in the Congregational ministry. He died at Plainfield, that state, in 1842, when he was forty-eight years of age. His wife, who had died in the fall of 1835, bore the maiden name of Mary Ann Abbott and was born in New Hampshire of an old family of New England. They were the parents of three sons and one daughter, of whom the latter, Martha, died at sixteen years. Joseph, who resides in Waterbury, Vt., served in a Vermont cavalry during the Civil war, and was taken prisoner and confined in Libby prison until exchanged. Merrill, who was a protegee of one of the early governors of Ohio, enlisted from that state in the Civil war and served as a lieutenant; he died in Burlington, Vt.

William F. was born at Dalton, Coos County, N. H., April 1, 1833. From an early age he was self-supporting, earning the money necessary for his education in the St. Johnsbury (Vt.) Academy, where he completed the regular course of study. He then taught for a year in

Columbus, Ohio. In 1855 he came to Illinois, where he first taught in Greengarden, Will County, and then at Monee, being principal of the latter school for seven years. For two years he was connected with Fairbanks & Co., as commercial traveler, and then entered the store as a bookkeeper, where he remained until 1879. Afterward he was principal of the school until 1886, the time of his removal to Joliet. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Mount Joliet Lodge, A. F. & A. M. During the Civil war he was chairman of the local division of the Union League. Reared in the Whig faith, he became a free soiler and, in 1856, affiliated with the Republican party upon its organization in Illinois. He is chairman of the board of deacons of the Central Presbyterian Church. While in Monee he was for fourteen years superintendent of the Union Sunday-school.

In Batavia, Ohio, Mr. Hutchinson married Miss Virginia Bryan, who was born in that city and died in Joliet in 1897. They were the parents of six children, namely: Bryan, who is a deputy county clerk; Gertrude, who died in this county; Merrill, of Chicago; Maud, who acts as one of the deputy county clerks; Edwin, who died at twenty years of age; and Bertram, who is a coal and feed merchant in Joliet. The second marriage of Mr. Hutchinson took place in Kankakee on the last day of 1898 and united him with Miss Mary L. Easterbrooks, who was born in Rhode Island, of an old New England family, and was for some years successfully engaged in educational work in this county.







*a Van-Fleet*

## ALFRED VAN FLEET.

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ALFRED VAN FLEET, president of the Van Fleet Manufacturing Company of Joliet, was born near Fairview, Fulton County, Ill., January 14, 1843. He is a descendant of a family that emigrated from Holland in an early day and settled in New York and New Jersey. His grandfather, Henry Van Fleet, was born in the latter state, near Flemington, in 1763, and followed agricultural pursuits in his native locality. David Van Fleet, who was born on the family homestead in 1813, came west about 1834 and settled in Fulton County, Ill., of which he was among the earliest settlers. Later he removed to the vicinity of Aurora, where he was a pioneer farmer. For many years he served as township supervisor. Besides his farm he also had a blacksmith's shop. His last years were spent near Sandwich, Ill., where he died.

The wife of David Van Fleet was Maria, daughter of Capt. Henry Dolliver, and a sister of Rev. James Dolliver, whose son, Hon. Prentice Dolliver, is a congressman from Iowa. She was born in New Jersey and died in Kansas. Her father, who always followed the sea, during the war of 1812 tendered the cotton on his vessels to General Jackson at the time of the battle of New Orleans. Later, while on his way to New York, he was captured by the British and held a prisoner in Dartmore prison, England, until the close of the war, his papers meantime having been taken from him so that he could not prove his property. The family of David and Maria Van Fleet consisted of five children, of whom three sons and one daughter survive, namely: W. H., a machinist, connected with the Van Fleet Manu-

facturing Company; V. D., who is also a machinist in Joliet; Alfred; and Mrs. Cornelia Gruder, of Kansas.

Reared upon a farm in Dekalb County, the subject of this sketch received public-school advantages. In July, 1861, he enlisted in Company K, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, and was mustered in at St. Charles, Ill., and assigned to the army of the Potomac. He took part in all the engagements of his regiment during the peninsular campaign, including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Wilderness, Gettysburg, Spottsylvania and the siege of Petersburg. During the battle of Frederick City he was struck by a shell and slightly wounded, and at the same time his horse was killed. For bravery in the service he was commissioned sergeant. After the grand review, in which he took part, he was ordered to Mexico, but when on the frontier the trouble subsided, and his regiment was mustered out in St. Louis August 22, 1865. On returning home he bought a farm in Dekalb County and continued to cultivate the place until 1868. He then removed to Ames, Story County, Iowa, and bought one hundred and sixty acres, which he farmed for six years. Afterward he worked at the carpenter's trade in Kelley, the same county, and also carried on a wagon and blacksmith's shop, and operated a threshing machine.

During the winter of 1876-77 Mr. Van Fleet became interested in the barb wire business. A man in Ames made barb wire by twisting the wire and putting on the barbs by hand. Concluding it could be done by machine, our subject began to work, and succeeded in devising a ma-

chine that answered the purpose, and by which eight to ten spools could be made a day. This was the first machine ever made by which the wire could be manufactured. He patented the invention, but did not develop it. In 1878 he came to Joliet to engage in the manufacture of barb wire, and for several years had charge of the Lock Stitch Company. Later he was superintendent under Paul Smith and also was superintendent of the Joliet Manufacturing Company. While in the latter position he formed the firm of Van Fleet & Shreffler. He improved a machine, which he patented about 1880, and then sold the patent to Washburn & Moen. In 1885 he resigned as superintendent of the Joliet Manufacturing Company and started a machine shop on Desplaines street. When the drainage canal came through in 1898, he bought his present location, 50x130 feet, and put in a forty horsepower engine. At this place, No. 513-515 Second avenue, he has since engaged in the manufacture of wire machinery and wire goods of all kinds. The products of the factory are shipped to all parts of the world. The plant is owned by him and his son, Elon J., jointly, he being president and his son secretary and treasurer of the company.

In political views Mr. Van Fleet is a Republican, and in religion is connected with Central Presbyterian Church. The local post of the Grand Army has his name enrolled among its members. While living in Aurora he married Miss Emma Bullock, who was born in New York state and died in Joliet in 1885. Of the five children born to their union, three are living, a son, Elon J., and two daughters, Grace, and Mrs. Mary Hunt, of South Dakota.

of Ireland. His parents, after the birth of one son, emigrated to the United States and settled in New York state, where the mother died in Ellensville. Of their eleven children, all but two attained mature years. The oldest son, John, now living in Warren, Pa., enlisted in the Union army as a member of a New York regiment of cavalry and served until its close. Three sons, Christopher J., Philip and Michael, are residents of Joliet, and William is at home.

The early years of our subject's life were passed in Fallsburg, where he was educated in the public schools. He was engaged as a teamster connected with a tannery. After his marriage he came to the west, arriving in Joliet in 1867, and securing employment with the Joliet Gas Company. Later he was employed in the building of the first rolling-mill in this city, and after its completion he secured work in the mill, continuing there for twelve years. On the erection of the steel mill he became a hooker in it, and so helped to roll the first iron and first steel rails. He assisted in organizing the Roll Hands' Union, which became connected with the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, and he continued an active member of the same until he quit the business.

The next enterprise with which Mr. Smith was connected was the bottling business, which he conducted on Collins street for six years, meantime building up a good trade. He then turned the business over to his son, who has since carried it on. During the last term of Mayor Kelly he received the appointment of superintendent of streets, which position he held for two years. He then turned his attention to general contracting, and built a number of sewers on Stone, Ruby, Jackson and Marion streets, having the contract for four and one-half miles of water-mains; also for many streets, grading, etc.

The Democratic party has always received the allegiance of Mr. Smith, who is a thorough believer in the principles which it represents. On the party ticket, in the spring of 1898, he was elected township highway commissioner for a term of three years, and is now president of the board. The position consumes his time and at-

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**C**HRISTOPHER J. SMITH, township commissioner of highways, and a resident of Joliet since 1867, was born in Fallsburg, Sullivan County, N. Y., September 23, 1847, a son of James and Mary (Flood) Smith, natives



tention, to the exclusion of outside interests. He is filling the office in a manner highly satisfactory to all concerned, and is proving a reliable, trustworthy public official. Twice he was elected alderman from the First ward, filling the office for four years, and he also served as assistant supervisor for one term. For many years he has been treasurer of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and he is also receiver in the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is connected with St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, in the building of which he took an active part, and he also aided generously in the erection of the academy.

Mr. Smith was one of the first to build on Collins street, and still resides at No. 801, where he has a neat and comfortable home. He was married in Ellensville, N. Y., to Miss Bridget Moran, who came from Ireland to America with her father, Conner Moran, and settled at Neversink, N. Y. Four children were born of their marriage, namely: John C., who has charge of the bottling business established by his father; Thomas V., who is connected with the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad; Ellen M., a graduate of St. Mary's Academy and Normal School; and now a teacher in the Chicago public schools; and George P., a plumber employed with the Federal Steel Company.

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**J**OSEPH PEART. Those who are reared in mining districts almost invariably follow the occupation of the people around them. Mr. Peart has been no exception to this rule. A miner's son, and born in the mining regions of County Durham, England, April 15, 1830, he was employed in boyhood as a digger in the coal mines of his native place. September 25, 1854, he landed in Boston, and from there proceeded to Zanesville, Ohio, where he was employed in mines for eighteen months. The year 1856 found him in Illinois. For two years he worked in the leading mines of La Salle County. He then went to Felix Township, Grundy County, and secured

work in the mines there. When he came to Will County, in 1868, he decided to enter a different occupation, and so purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Wilmington Township and embarked in farming and stock-raising. However, after eight years of farm life he sold his place and came to Braidwood, which was then a new and small mining camp. From that time until 1887 he was connected with the mines of the Chicago & Wilmington Coal Company, a part of the time acting as foreman of the gang. After fifty years, that were almost wholly devoted to mining pursuits, he retired from active labors in 1887. He had entered the mines of England, a child of seven years, in a very humble position. He left the mines of Braidwood, a man of fifty-seven years, after having worked his way to a responsible and remunerative position. He had early in life showed a determination to make his way in the world; and, although his education was limited and his advantages few, he acquired valuable information in the school of experience and became a well-informed man. During these long years of labor he gained a competency, and in 1883 he built a two-story residence on Roundhouse avenue, where he is now enjoying a rest from his former cares.

Those who are acquainted with Mr. Peart thoroughly understand his political views. He is known to be a decided Republican, stanch in his allegiance to party. For four years he was an alderman, and for three terms, of two years each, held office as mayor of Braidwood. During his service as mayor many improvements were introduced, and he was one of the first to champion the cinder sidewalks. For six years he served as a school director. Fraternally he is connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen; Braidwood Lodge No. 704, A. F. & A. M.; Wilmington Chapter, R. A. M., and Joliet Commandery, K. T.

In 1859 Mr. Peart married Ellen Baxter, who was born in this county. They have one daughter, Mary Ada, now the wife of Henry A. Foster, of Pontiac, Ill. Mrs. Peart is a member of the Eastern Star, and takes an active part in its work. Her father, William Baxter, a native of

Scotland, immigrated to America about 1830 and settled at Mount Savage, Allegany County, Md. He was a practical miner and civil engineer, and surveyed many an acre of coal land in Allegany County. In 1848 he came west, settling in Will County, and afterward engaging in surveying on the Illinois and Michigan canal. He made an estimate of the cost of building the entire canal, and it later developed that his estimate was very close to the actual cost. On completing his surveying he settled on a farm in Florence Township, and in 1852 he died on that place. His wife, like himself, a native of Scotland, bore the maiden name of Ellen Somerville. She died in Florence Township in 1866, at sixty-three years of age. They were the parents of six children, five of whom are living, namely: William, Mrs. Peart, Andrew, John C., and Mary, wife of Dr. Cook, of Hastings, Neb.

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**JAMES DUCKER.** For many years one of the county's most influential citizens, Mr. Ducker was a pioneer dry-goods merchant and long held a prominent place among the business men of northeastern Illinois. When he started in business on the corner of Clinton and Chicago streets, in 1874, his was the first dry-goods house on Chicago street; he continued to occupy Ducker's block, erected by himself, until his death, and meantime built up a very large trade in dry-goods, clothing and carpets. While he was in some respects conservative, yet in business matters he was progressive, and he always led in matters bearing favorably upon the welfare of the people or the development of local interests. With Hon. George H. Munroe he took an active part in the building of the Joliet theatre, and for a time was president of the company that erected the building. He also bought the old Exchange hotel site, adjoining Barrett's hardware store, on Chicago street, where he had a frontage of sixty-six feet. So high was the opinion in which others held him as a merchant

that after the Chicago fire he was offered a partnership in the firm of Marshall Field & Co., with the position of foreign buyer, but he had left England on account of its unhealthful climate and felt it inadvisable to return to that country, so declined the tempting offer. During early days his opinion in regard to goods and purchases was often sought by western merchants, notably Marshall Field & Co.

The life which this narrative sketches began in Epworth, England, October 27, 1823, and closed in Joliet December 16, 1885. The Ducker family in a remote period migrated from Holland to England, where subsequent generations became prominent. James and Maria Ducker lived upon a farm at Epworth and were members of the Society of Friends. Their son, James, Jr., who forms the subject of this article, was apprenticed to the dry-goods business in Hull at fifteen years of age and served for five years, after which he worked for wages. In 1852 he came to America, hoping that the change would benefit his health. After a short time in Chicago he settled upon a farm in Frankfort Township, this county. One year on a farm convinced him that agriculture was not his forte in life. His crops were destroyed by hail and he gained nothing except experience. In 1853 he started one of the first stores in Mokena and during the twenty-one years of his residence there he became a prosperous merchant and large grain dealer. After he had been in America for a time two of his brothers crossed the ocean to seek homes here. One of them, George, is now engaged in ranching near Red Cloud, Neb., and the other, William B., died in Nebraska. In 1874 Mr. Ducker removed from Mokena to Joliet and began business in the block he had erected the preceding year. It had been his intention to rent the building and settle in Chicago, but, owing to the block being remote from the business center, it was impossible to secure a tenant, and he therefore decided to engage in business himself. His success was steady and encouraging, and continued without a break until his death. He was never active in politics, although he kept posted concerning national issues and voted with the Republicans. In religious



belief he was a member of the Episcopal Church. His wife is a member of the Universalist Church.

In Chicago, in 1854, Mr. Ducker married Jennette Allison, who was born in Glasgow, Scotland, a daughter of John and Jane (Mason) Allison, natives of Paisley, Scotland. She was third among six children, five of whom are living, all but herself living in Sterling, Whiteside County, Ill. She was reared in Scotland and was twenty years of age when, in 1853, she came to Illinois. Her father, and grandfathers, James Allison and George Mason, were all manufacturers of shawls in Paisley, and the last-named was a prominent Presbyterian elder. She built the residence which she occupies, at No. 507 Union street. In her family there are five children living: James W., a merchant in Mokena; Maria J., wife of Dr. Lewis Beck, a physician in Red Cloud, Neb.; George A., who is represented on another page; John J., a merchant of Joliet; and Jessie M., wife of John S. Luthy, of Chicago, a trusted man in Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co.'s wholesale house.

smith's trade. In 1831 he removed to Ohio and in 1836 to Milwaukee, Wis., thence to Waukesha a year later. In 1856 he located the town site of Brodhead, where he afterward made his home. During his residence in Waukesha he was one of the contractors who built the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad, the first railroad built in Wisconsin. After its construction he was made a director of the company, and continued to be closely associated with the construction of the entire system up to the time of the absorption of the road by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul corporation, when he retired from the directorate. His last years were spent in retirement from business, although he had a number of important interests and continued to be a busy man to the last. He and his wife were earnest Christians. They founded the first Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee, subsequently organized the first Congregational Church in Waukesha, and, on removing to Brodhead, they were two of the twenty-nine charter members of the First Congregational Church of that place. For years he officiated as a deacon in the church. His father, Henry, a native of Connecticut, was a descendant of Puritan stock, as was also his mother, who was a Miss Darrow; the latter lived to be ninety-seven years of age.

**CAPT. GEORGE O. CLINTON.** The life which this narrative sketches began in Waukesha, Wis., August 21, 1839, in the home of Edmund and Amanda (Conkey) Clinton. There were seven sons in this family, namely: Albert T., who is agent for the United States Express Company in LaCrosse, Wis.; Henry P., who served as quartermaster in the "Iron" Brigade, the Seventh Wisconsin Infantry, during the Civil war, and died while in the service; Edson C., deceased, who was a well-known lumberman at Brodhead, Wis.; Charles W., who was lieutenant of the First Wisconsin Cavalry in the Civil war, and died in a hospital at Nashville; George O.; Edmund D., Jr., deceased; and DeWitt C., a commercial salesman, representing the Ryan Mercantile Company of St. Paul.

Edmund D. Clinton, Sr., a native of Vermont, accompanied his parents to St. Lawrence County, N. Y., in childhood, and there learned the black-

Prior to eighteen years of age our subject attended the academy and Carroll College in Waukesha. He then became brakeman with the Milwaukee & Prairie du Chien Railroad, and a year later was made conductor. At the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted as a private in Company E, Thirteenth Wisconsin Infantry, his name being enrolled in the ranks August 15, 1861, and he was mustered in September 14. He remained on duty at Janesville, Wis., until December, where he was commissioned first lieutenant and adjutant of the Third Battalion, First Wisconsin Cavalry; he was made regimental adjutant March 24, 1862, and captain of Company B September 26, 1862. The regiment was organized at Ripon and Kenosha, Wis., and mustered into service March 10, 1862, reporting at Benton Barracks, Mo., March 17, and remaining there until April 28, when they were attached to Vandervere's



corps, department of Missouri, and operated in southeastern Missouri from April to October of that year. From May, 1863, to October, 1864, they were in the army of the Cumberland. Ordered to Cape Girardeau, Mo., April 28, 1862, they assisted in scout and patrol duty in that district until the expedition to Bloomfield in October. May 14-15 they took part in the action at Chalk's Bluff, then accompanied an expedition to Madison, Ark.; July 9-22 were in action at Scatterville, Ark.; July 10, at Arkansas Bluff; July 11, at Madison; July 22, at West Prairie, Mo.; July 23, with the campaign against Porter's and Pointdexter's guerillas; July 25, September 10, at Bloomfield as headquarters; July 29, at Jonesboro, Ark.; August 2-3, Jackson and Scatterville; August 3, in camp at Cape Girardeau, Mo.; October 4, Bloomfield; thence to Greenville and Patterson, Mo.; on duty at West Plains, Pilot Knob and Ste. Genevieve, Mo.; in April, 1863, at White Water River; April 24, Cape Girardeau; April 5-27, Castor River; April 29, Bloomfield; April 30, ordered to join army of the Cumberland at Nashville, Tenn.; May 1, in action at Triune; June 19, in the Tullahoma campaign; at Rover June 23; Middletown, June 24; Guy's Gap, June 27; occupation of Tullahoma, July 1; at Huntsville and Fayetteville until August 15; and at Larkinsville, Ala., until August 31; in the Chattanooga campaign from September to November; at Graysville, September 10; Crawfish, September 18; took part in the following engagements: Chickamauga, September 19-20; Rossville Gap, September 21; pursuit of Wheeler, October 10; Anderson's Cross Roads, October 2; Maysville, Ala., October 13; after which he was at camp in Winchester until November 20, and then was detached on recruiting service at Madison, Wis., from December, 1863, to February, 1864. Returning south, he was at Cleveland, Tenn., April 2-13; took part in the Atlanta campaign; was at Red Clay, Ga., May 3; Tunnel Hill, May 7; Buzzard's Roost Gap, May 8; Varnell's Station, May 9; and was captured near Dalton, Ga., May 9, and made a prisoner of war, being confined at Atlanta and Macon, Ga., and Charleston, S. C. He was one of three hun-

dred officers, the first Union men to be placed under fire of their own guns. He was exchanged at Rough and Ready, Ga., September 26, 1864, and was mustered out October 28 of the same year, and honorably discharged from the service.

Although the highest title our subject won in war was that of captain, he is always addressed as "colonel," although, disliking to "sail under false colors," he has disclaimed all right to that title; but, one day shortly after his return from the front, he was met by a newspaper man, who addressed him as "colonel," and on being told he was not entitled to that rank, the man replied that he would at once commission him colonel. From that day to this he has been known by his honorary title.

On his return home he was for two years engaged in buying stock and grain. In 1866 he built a portion of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road in Iowa. In 1867 he went to Kansas and contracted to build fourteen miles of the Union Pacific Railroad near Fort Hays. While there eight of his men were killed and fourteen head of stock were captured by the Indians. His next work was lumbering in Wisconsin, after which, with his father-in-law and others, he built the Madison & Portage Railroad, now a part of the St. Paul system. On the completion of the road he took a position in the operating department of the same, and for three years made his headquarters in Milwaukee. He then went to Chicago and had charge of the terminal of the Wabash system, also was local freight agent for the road for one year. Later, for ten months, he was superintendent of the St. Louis bridge and union depot. For fifteen months he was superintendent of the Rio Grande division of the Texas Pacific Railroad. During this time he had charge of building the roundhouse and eighteen substantial buildings (eating houses and stations). In 1884 he returned to Chicago as superintendent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. He was in charge of the Chicago & Milwaukee division, the Chicago & Council Bluffs division and the Chicago & Evanston division. After five years he resigned to accept the general superintendency of the construction of the Elgin,

Joliet & Eastern Railroad, with which he remained for five years. Since then he has been interested in a railroad contract in the Indian Territory, and the Mineral Point & Northern Railroad in southwest Wisconsin. By other railroad officials he is quoted as one of the most efficient transportation men in the United States. There is not a detail of the business with which he is unfamiliar. The many important positions he has held have been filled with a sagacity, energy and intelligence that gave him a high place with company officials.

November 6, 1860, Captain Clinton married Miss Charlotte Campbell, who was born in Albany, N. Y., a daughter of James and Lorinda (Hill) Campbell. Her father was for some years a farmer, but later engaged in railroad building with his son-in-law. A native of Pennsylvania, born February 19, 1814, he moved to Albany in 1837, and in later years came west to Wisconsin. He died in Madison, that state, in 1883. His wife was born February 2, 1818, and died February 4, 1900. He was a descendant of Robert Campbell, who came to the United States in 1719 and died in Connecticut six years later. Captain and Mrs. Clinton are the parents of three children: Charles Arba, who is the Chicago representative of the Blanke Coffee Company of St. Louis; Edith L., wife of John Tuttle, a jeweler in Chicago; and James Campbell, who is cashier in the Morgan & Wright Tire Company, of Chicago. Captain Clinton is a member of Bicknell Lodge No. 94, A. F. & A. M., at Brodhead; Wisconsin Commandery No. 1, at Milwaukee; and is also connected with the Loyal Legion of Milwaukee, and George H. Thomas Post, G. A. R.

the stone mason's trade in his youth. In that state he married Betsey Kendall, a woman of unusual business capacity and one well fitted to cope with the hardships of pioneer existence. After the birth of two children they sought a home in the then far west. When they arrived in Plainfield, in 1830, they found three white families here. The surroundings were those of primeval nature. Little effort had been made to reclaim the land from its original wildness. Mr. Flagg took up a claim one mile south of Plainfield and settled on that place. At the land sale in 1836 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres one mile east of Plainfield; this property he improved and placed under cultivation, making of it a valuable farm. During the winter of 1831 he hauled the first hog ever taken to Chicago; it was during the progress of the first Methodist convention held in that city and the pork was presented to an old preacher, Mr. Biggs, who lived there at the time. In 1833 he hauled from Plainfield to Chicago the lumber that was used in the construction of the first frame house in the latter city. During the Black Hawk war he enlisted under General Scott and served until the Indians were conquered. During the progress of the war his family remained for a time in the log fort at Plainfield, but subsequently went to Fort Dearborn, which afforded greater protection to the whites. When the war ended they returned to their cabin home. They were gratified to find, on their return, that, although there was an Indian village near by, the red men had shown a friendly spirit and had not stolen anything from them. During the existence of the Whig party Mr. Flagg upheld its principles. Upon its disintegration he identified himself with the Republican party. He held various local offices, and the county records show that he was the first justice of the peace in Plainfield, holding the office several years. He was fairly successful in life, and at his death, in 1871, left a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres. More than half of his life of sixty-nine years was spent in this county, and it was his privilege to witness the remarkable growth of the county and the development of its resources. His wife, who, like himself, was a

**G**EORGE W. FLAGG, a well-known farmer and stockman residing in Plainfield, is a member of one of the earliest pioneer families in this village and was himself born here July 25, 1837. His father, Reuben, a native of Vermont, grew to manhood on a farm and learned



Universalist in religious belief, died in Plainfield in 1876. Of their children the two born in Vermont, Kendall and Sarah, died in this county. Samantha, who was born in September, 1830, was the first white child born in what was then Cook County, including all the land between Lake Michigan and Ottawa; she died when forty years of age. Prudence married David Holden and both are now deceased. Benjamin Franklin and Henry C. are deceased. William H. resides in Plainfield, N. Y.; Loraine, Mrs. James Radney, died in Iowa. Mary is deceased, and Lucy is the wife of Henry Howe, of Portland, Ore.

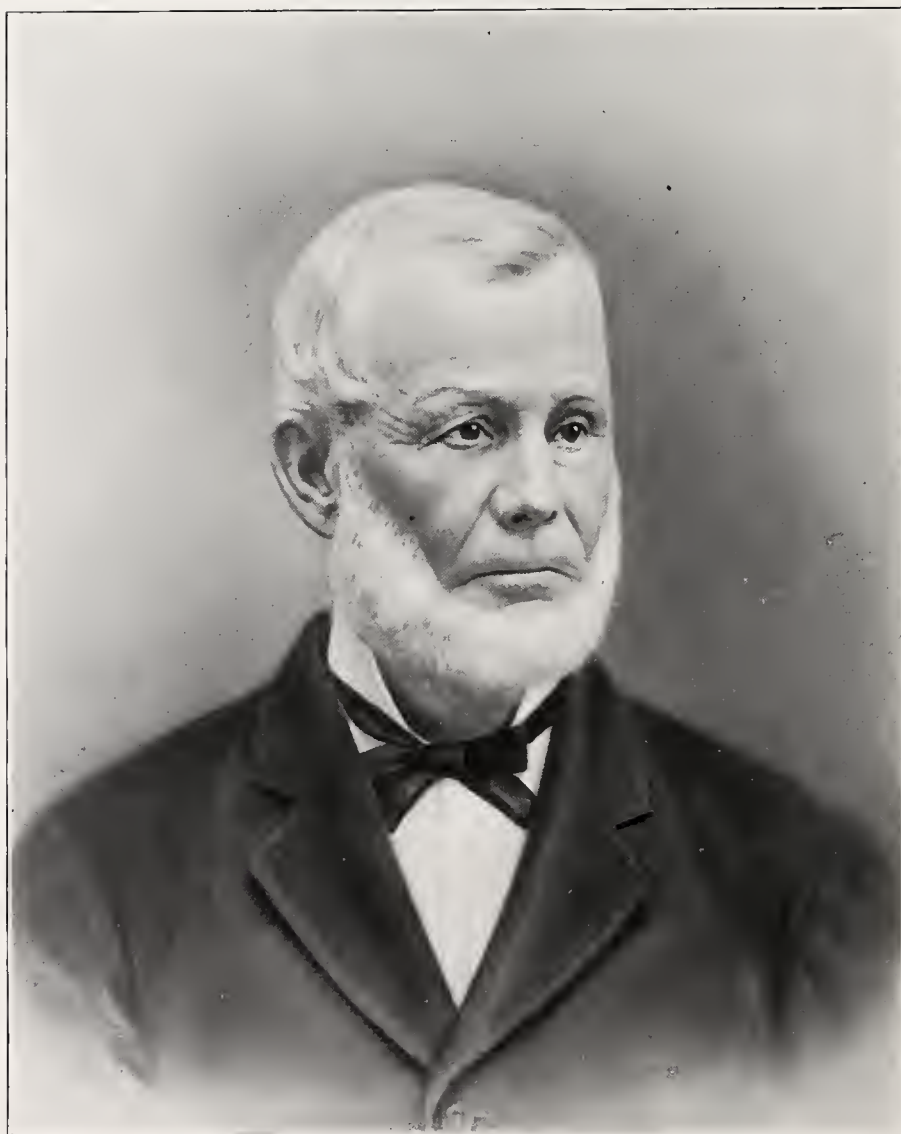
The sixth member of the family was George W., the subject of this sketch. He was reared amid the pioneer influences of this locality. At the breaking out of the Civil war he was determined to enlist in the Union army, and September, 1861, found his name enrolled as first lieutenant of Company K, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, in which he served until the spring of 1862. The hardships of army life and its attending exposures brought on hemorrhage of the lungs and he was obliged to resign his commission, after having done some good service as guard in the vicinity of Alexandria. Realizing that the state of his health necessitated a change of climate, he went

to Greeley, Colo., where he secured employment with Governor Eaton in herding cattle on the range between Denver and Cheyenne. For more than four years he remained in the west. The outdoor exercise in the pure, invigorating air of Colorado restored him to health. On his return home he engaged in farming on a place he had purchased near Plainfield. From time to time he added to his place until he is now the owner of six hundred acres, comprising one of the finest farms in the county. Since 1872 he has made his home in the village, carrying on the farm with the aid of his son. Much of his attention is given to the buying and feeding of cattle, in which work he has been quite successful.

November 17, 1861, Mr. Flagg married Miss M. A. Colgrove, daughter of Lester Colgrove, a farmer of this township. They have two sons, the older, George K., being a farmer, and the younger, Jerome F., a grocer in Plainfield. Both in principle and in politics Mr. Flagg is a stanch Prohibitionist and gives his influence toward the progress of that party. He is connected with the Grand Army Post in his home town. Mr. Flagg owes his prosperity to industry and frugality, and the lessons of his life are worth emulating by the younger generation.







*W. H. Van Emon*

## WALTER WALL VAN EMON.

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**W**ALTER WALL VAN EMON was one of the representative pioneers and highly esteemed citizens of Kendall County, and from his youth until his death, a period of about fifty-five years, he was intimately connected with the advancement of this section of the state. He bore an enviable reputation for integrity and high principles, and the business success which he won was the direct reward of steady, determined effort. A man of most temperate life, he never used tobacco or spirits in any form.

When our subject's father, George Van Emon, bought the pre-emption claim to the homestead which has since been in the possession of the family, the deed for the same from the government was issued to Van Neman, the original spelling of the patronymic, which is of German origin. The maternal ancestors of George Van Emon resided in Massachusetts in very early colonial days; and on account of the rigorous persecutions instituted by some of the Puritan authorities the family sought peace and freedom in Pennsylvania, whence members bearing the name finally went westward.

George Van Emon was born in Brown County, Ohio, and when he was approaching manhood he decided to try his fortunes in the west. His brother, James Van Emon, also concluded to leave the more beaten paths of civilization, and unfortunately went to a wild region of Kentucky, where he was killed by Indians.

For a wife George Van Emon chose Hester Wall, a second cousin, and three children were born to them. In 1834 the couple started in a wagon for the prairies of Illinois, and brought with them cows and sheep, and sprouts of apple trees, currants and grapes. Arriving in what is

now Kendall County, the father bought a tract of one hundred and sixty-three acres, situated in the township of the same name. Sixteen acres had previously been broken, and a two-story log-cabin stood in this clearing. In that season the new owner managed to raise sufficient corn on the cleared tract to provide his family and stock with necessary food during the ensuing winter, and his future success was assured. The little cabin, which was quite pretentious for that day and locality, is still in a good state of preservation.

Walter Wall Van Emon, born January 22, 1819, in Ohio, was fifteen years of age when the family made the memorable journey to this county. He was a slender youth, and, indeed, did not reach the hundred-weight mark until after he arrived at his majority. He walked much of the way from Ohio, driving the live-stock, and when he came to the marshy places or rivulets he often rode across them on the back of his great, strong mastiff. After he located on this farm he bravely undertook tasks which really were beyond his strength, such as breaking the prairie with oxen, cutting timber and hauling lumber for buildings. The material used in the construction of the farmhouse, which is the home of his widow, was brought from Lockport in 1850, and the house was built in that year. He was a systematic, successful farmer and business man, and within a few years began to reap plentiful harvests in return for his labor. For a number of years he made a specialty of raising horses of fine grade; and at a day when 2:26 was considered a remarkable record, his brown Dick made that record on the race-track. He invested a snug little fortune in more farm lands and tracts of timber in this lo-



cality, and realized good profits from these ventures. At the time of his death, January 29, 1889, he left an estate of about three hundred acres.

On the 15th of July, 1856, Mr. Van Emon married Elizabeth Hay, daughter of George P. Hay, an honored early settler of Yorkville, Ill. Her mother, Mrs. Harriet (Morris) Hay, a native of New Jersey, was of English and Dutch descent. Mr. Hay, who was of Scotch descent, was born in the city of New York, and his ancestors owned a farm on which the present Bowery of that city is situated. As they were Tories at the time of the Revolution their property was confiscated by the infant government. Mr. Hay came from the Empire state to the west by way of the canal to Buffalo, the lakes to Chicago, and by team to this county. He carried on a mercantile business in Yorkville, and, though honored by election to several offices there, sturdily declined them.

Of the five children born to Mr. Van Emon and wife, two died in infancy. Of the survivors, the daughter, Alida V., is the wife of Frank W. Lord, of Plano; and George H., the elder son, resides in Washington, D. C.; Allen H., who is an enterprising business man, is engaged in the management of the home farm, in association with his mother. He deals extensively in high-grade stock, keeping excellent cattle and horses, Shropshire sheep and Poland-China hogs.

Fraternally he belongs to Kendall Lodge No. 471, A. F. & A. M., and politically follows in his father's footsteps, and is an ardent Republican and patriotic citizen.

**SOLON SMITH BOOMER.** To the brave men who defended the Union during the dark days of the Civil war our country owes a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid. Among the veterans of the Rebellion now living in Kendall County prominent mention belongs to Mr. Boomer, the well-known farmer of Bristol Township. It was in August, 1862, when he entered the army as a member of Company H, Eighty-ninth Illinois Infantry, army of the Cum-

berland, assigned to duty in Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia. He served continuously with his regiment until he was captured by the enemy near Atlanta, after which he was confined for eight months in Andersonville and other southern prisons. On being liberated from prison he rejoined his regiment and returned to Springfield, Ill., where he was honorably discharged June 24, 1865. During a part of his service he was corporal, but most of the time he ranked as sergeant, and in both capacities he proved himself to be efficient and trustworthy.

Mr. Boomer was born in Charlton, Mass., October 25, 1837, a son of Martin and Lydia (Borden) Boomer. His paternal grandfather, James Boomer, was born May 26, 1759, in Fall River, Mass., and served in the Revolutionary war, after which he became a Baptist minister. His wife, Susan Borden, was born February 3, 1769. The first American ancestor of the Boomer family came from England and settled at Fall River in 1656, and Solon S. Boomer is of the sixth generation in this country. The father of James Boomer was active in the struggles with Indians before the Revolution. Martin Boomer was born April 10, 1802, in Fall River, received an academic education, and engaged in the lumber trade at Charlton. His wife was a daughter of Dr. Ebenezer Borden, a prominent physician of his time. She was born June 24, 1807, in Charlton, and was married to Mr. Boomer May 10, 1826. Their golden wedding anniversary was celebrated in 1876.

In the fall of 1854 Martin Boomer located permanently in Illinois, settling on a farm in Bristol Township. During the Civil war he sold his farm and lived for a time in Yorkville. On the return of his son from the army they bought, in partnership, the farm now occupied by the latter. Here the father passed away June 12, 1888. He was a faithful adherent of the Baptist Church, and was active in religious and political matters in his section. In early life a Whig, he aided in organizing the Republican party, and was ever a supporter of movements calculated, in his opinion, to further the general welfare or the cause of good morals.

His children were four in number, namely: Ebenezer; Amelia, who married L. M. Healy; Lydia (Mrs. John Owen); and Solon S. All except the latter are now deceased. The mother survived until February 25, 1899, nearly completing her ninety-second year. She was affectionately called "Aunt Lydia" by a large circle of acquaintances.

In 1851 our subject came to Illinois with his father. The latter soon returned to Massachusetts, but the son remained with an uncle for three years, meantime gaining a good knowledge of western customs and habits. On his return to Massachusetts he entered school there and for a time continued his studies. He then came back to Illinois and worked on a farm in Kendall County, where he was living at the time of his enlistment in the Union army. On his return from the front he became interested in railroad bridge building. The company with which he worked built most of the bridges on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, of that day. In 1879 he came back to his old home in Kendall County and abandoned bridge-building, since which time he has made his home on section 21, Bristol Township, upon the farm that he and his father bought in 1865. Since 1880 he has operated one hundred and thirty-four acres of land, on which he engages in the grain, stock and dairy business. His herd of stock includes some fine Poland-China swine and Holstein cattle. He has built up a good business as a dairyman and sells the products of his dairy to the people of Bristol. Besides his property here he has two hundred and forty acres of improved land in Kansas.

In politics a Republican, Mr. Boomer has been a delegate to county conventions, has served as road commissioner and as a member of the school board. He is a member of Yorkville Post No. 522, G. A. R., and has served as its commander. While he is not connected with any denomination, he attends and contributes to the Congregational Church. His marriage took place March 28, 1867, and united him with Miss Lois Barnes, of Bristol Township. (See sketch of H. P. Barnes.) They are the parents of three daughters and one son,

namely: Jessie L., Henry R. (of Chicago), Mabel B. and Edith L.

**WILLIAM G. GASKELL.** This gentleman, who is one of the best known and most prominent residents of Seward Township, is a skillful and prosperous farmer, having on sections 25 and 26 a fine estate, which is well improved, with ample and substantial buildings to fully serve the various purposes of the progressive agriculturist. He was born May 30, 1830, near New Lisbon, Columbiana County, Ohio, a son of Joab Gaskell. His grandfather, Joab Gaskell, was born July 31, 1775, in New Jersey, where he spent his early years. In 1805 he became a pioneer settler of Columbiana County, Ohio, where he redeemed a homestead from the wilderness. While there he became very active in public affairs and served in the state legislature. In addition to carrying on his farming pursuits most successfully he was in the government service, locating government lands, for sixteen years. He was one of the early disciples and an active member of the Christian Church from the time of its organization. He married Ann Hooper, who was born in New Jersey, June 14, 1772, and died January 28, 1842, in Columbiana County, Ohio. He survived her many years, passing away January 12, 1862.

Joab Gaskell, Jr., was born July 5, 1805, in New Jersey, but was reared and educated in Columbiana County, whither his parents removed when he was an infant. A farmer by occupation, he met with success in the various branches of agriculture which he followed, and during his active life was a citizen of influence. Politically he was first identified with the Whigs, but was afterwards an adherent of the Republican party. He married Emily Green, of Columbiana County, and they became the parents of six children, of whom we note the following: William Green is the special subject of this sketch; Flavius J., born December 2, 1831, resides in Alliance, Ohio; Lyman Hooper, born March 4, 1834, now a resident of Will County, Ill., enlisted during the late Civil war in Company A, One Hundred and



Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close, when he was mustered out as sergeant; Miletus B., born December 6, 1839, enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and died in the service; Annie M., now deceased, born May 17, 1846, and married George Miller, of Ohio; and Jason J., born May 16, 1852, has been connected with the firm of J. S. Kirk & Co., of Chicago, for many years.

William Green Gaskell grew to manhood in Ohio, near the homestead on which his grandparents located in 1805. He first pursued his studies at the subscription schools, which were held in his grandfather's house, attending winter terms until he was twelve years old. He materially added to the education thus received by reading and observation, and at the age of nineteen years finished his school life at Mount Union Seminary, Stark County, Ohio, where he spent one term, after which he taught school near his home for four winters, working on the homestead in summer.

In the spring of 1855 he came to Illinois, making his first stop in Mendota, where he had a cousin, and soon secured work in the harvest fields of Bureau County, where he was offered \$2.50 a day by a Mr. Porter, who subsequently paid him \$3 a day for work on the farm and in the brickyard. In the winter of 1855 and 1856 he was employed as a teacher in Bureau County, near Lamoille, whence the following spring he came to Kendall County. Locating in Seward Township, he bought eighty acres of raw prairie land, giving \$8 per acre, and assuming an indebtedness for a large part of the amount. Returning then to Ohio, he secured one horse from his father and another from his cousin, making a team, which he drove back to Kendall County, and with which he began breaking prairie for other people, working thus in summers, while in winter he resumed his professional duties, being in the winter of 1859 and 1860 the first male teacher ever employed in Minooka.

Mr. Gaskell made rapid strides in the improvement of his property, and, as his finances warranted, added more land, now having a fine estate

of two hundred and forty acres, one hundred and twenty of which he paid \$60 an acre for in 1884, a great advance on the price paid for his original purchase. Previous to this time he had bought forty acres of land adjoining his homestead from a cousin, thus completing his entire farm. The small house which he built nearly half a century ago has been replaced by a fine residence in which he and his family are enjoying life. A man of more than ordinary business capacity, and a thorough and skillful agriculturist, he has been highly prospered in his undertakings, which includes the raising of fine cattle and horses. He has a large herd of Jersey cattle, and was at one time the owner of sixty-five head of good horses, in which he is greatly interested. He has long been prominent in all matters tending to benefit the agriculturist, and was one of the organizers of the Seward Fair Association, which grew out of the meets of the horsemen on his training and driving park.

The charter members of this society met at Mr. Gaskell's home in October, 1896, when he presented the present constitution and by-laws to the assembled group, who at once adopted both, and elected the following officers: President, W. G. Gaskell; vice-president, Mrs. James Platt; secretary, E. W. Harvey; treasurer, Mrs. Stanton Brown, the directors being Joseph Brown, John Shepley, D. K. Hall, Abel Heap, W. G. Murley, Mrs. Fred Brown, Mrs. B. Murley and Mrs. Ed. Heap. For three years the association held its annual meetings at the home of Mr. Gaskell, the president. In January, 1900, the organization disbanded, donating the funds on hand to the Ladies' Cemetery Association.

March 15, 1859, Mr. Gaskell married Adaline M. Wood, who was born November 17, 1833, in Schenectady, N. Y., a daughter of Joseph G. and Eliza P. (Moshier) Wood. Mr. Wood was a civil engineer in early life, and assisted in building the great "Croton" aqueduct. In 1844 he removed with his family to Plainfield, Ill., from whence, in 1854, he went to Jordan, Scott County, Minn., where he was engaged in farming until his death, November 24, 1885. March 12, 1830, he married Eliza P. Moshier, who was born



in Union County, N. Y., December 6, 1813, and died at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gaskell in Seward Township, January 24, 1894. Of the eight children born of their union, four survive, namely: Frank L., a real estate dealer in Jordan, Minn.; Susan V., of Chicago, widow of the late John Lish; Adaline M., now Mrs. Gaskell; and George Rodney, of Jordan, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Gaskell are the parents of three children, as follows: Jessie G., wife of Frank E. Marsh, of Joliet, Ill.; Miletus N., a graduate of the Geneseo Normal College, and now engaged in fruit growing in Tifton, Ga., married Adella, daughter of John Spencer, of Henry, Ill.; and Laura, who was born October 7, 1878, and died April 8, 1891. Mrs. Marsh is a graduate of the Northwestern Normal University, and for fourteen years prior to her marriage was engaged in teaching, having been connected with the city schools of Joliet eleven years.

Politically Mr. Gaskell affiliates with the Republican party, and is a leader in the establishment of local enterprises. He has never been an aspirant for official honors, but has served as school trustee and treasurer of the township school fund thirty-one consecutive terms. Mrs. Gaskell was a most successful teacher in her younger days, having taught in Joliet. Since twenty years of age she has been a member of the Congregational Church, and since the organization of the Second Church in Seward has been one of its most active members and a teacher in its Sunday-school. She is at present president of the Seward Cemetery Association, composed of ladies, and is treasurer of the Home and Foreign Missionary Society of Seward.

**JAMES OLIVER RICHMOND.** The farmers who in an early day came from the east and cast in their fortunes with the pioneers of Kendall County have had no reason to regret their choice of location. Without exception they have gained competencies and secured high standing as capable agriculturists. While Mr. Richmond was not one of the earliest settlers in

the county he deserves the title of pioneer, for he has made his home here almost fifty years. He owns and occupies a fine farm of one hundred and seventy acres on sections 10 and 11, Big Grove Township, where he has a tract of carefully tilled land, bearing valuable modern improvements.

In Augusta, Oneida County, N. Y., Mr. Richmond was born December 24, 1827, a son of Amaziah and Caroline (Rogers) Richmond, natives of Massachusetts and Vermont respectively. The Rogers family originated in England. The paternal grandparents, Jonathan and Hannah (Duncan) Richmond, removed to Oneida County when their son, Amaziah, was twelve years of age, and there he grew to manhood, married, and engaged in farming. All of his eleven children attained mature years and eight are now living. In order of birth, the sons and daughters are as follows: James O., Caroline, widow of Norman Lent and a resident of Naperville, Ill.; Sarah, Mrs. Elisha Crossman, of Chicago; Elizabeth, who is the widow of Warren Lawrence and makes her home with our subject; J. Seth, who made his home with his brother, J. O., until he died, in 1898; Adaline E., widow of Randall Pease, of Cherokee County, Iowa; William H., of Marseilles, Ill.; John H., who died at Marseilles in the fall of 1897; Julia, wife of William Mallory, of Lisbon, Ill.; Mary E., deceased wife of James Wright; and George H., a farmer in Marseilles.

When our subject was twelve years of age he accompanied his parents from Oneida County to Onondago County, N. Y., and there grew to manhood. April 19, 1849, he married Miss Amy M. Vaughn, who was born in Chemung County, N. Y., April 22, 1830, a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Mills) Vaughn, natives of Oneida County. She was the youngest of a large family, one of whom died in infancy, the others attaining mature years. They were: Sarah, Lucretia, Elizabeth, William, John, Benjamin and Mrs. Richmond. The only survivors are Mrs. Richmond and John, of Chemung County.

From the time of his marriage until 1852 Mr. Richmond rented land in Onondaga County. He then came via the lakes and Chicago to Ken-

dall County, first visiting his uncle, Samuel Barker (who had married Susan Rogers, a sister of his mother). Mr. Barker was a farmer in Big Grove Township, and so Mr. Richmond became interested in this locality and decided to settle here. For two years he rented land. In the fall of 1854 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 13, this being a raw prairie tract, with only a few acres broken and no building except a small log cabin. For this property he paid \$20 per acre. Not long afterward he built a more comfortable home on the farm. In 1865 he sold that place and bought thirty-five acres, the nucleus of his present estate. By subsequent purchase he has become the owner of one hundred and seventy acres of well improved land. In 1895 he built his cozy and neatly appointed residence. At different times he has made other improvements on the place.

Politically Mr. Richmond is a Republican, with independent views in local matters. He has never consented to hold office except as a member of the board of education. Coming here a poor man, he deserves credit for the large measure of success he has gained. Personally he is modest and unassuming, never striving for personal advancement, yet possessing an energy and industry that win friends and bring prosperity. For more than fifty years he and his wife have shared their joys and sorrows in a spirit of mutual helpfulness and encouragement. The occasion of their golden wedding was made memorable by the presence of family and friends, who joined in extending congratulations and wishing them many more years of health and life. They are the parents of three children: Minerva, wife of Christian Miller, of Millington; M. Cicero, who married Ida Randall and operates the home farm; and Celia, who is with her parents.

**E**DMUND SEELY, deceased, late proprietor of Larch Grove stock farm, in Na-au-say Township, Kendall County, was one of the honored old-time residents of this county, where he dwelt for three-score years. He was a worthy representative of one of the sterling New Eng-

land families originally from Lancashire, England, whence they emigrated in 1692 or 1694. The great-great-great-grandfather of our subject, Jonas Seely, an Englishman, settled in Connecticut, and the next in line of descent was Ebenezer Seely, born in Stamford, Conn., in 1696. He chose Mary Dean for a wife, and eleven children were born to them. One of his descendants, Josiah Seely, located in Orange County, N. Y., and there occurred the birth of our subject's grandfather, Jonas Seely.

Dr. Townsend Seely, the father of Edmund Seely, was born in Orange County, N. Y., in 1794, and when he arrived at maturity commenced the study of medicine, being graduated in the Medical College of Albany in 1815. He was a resident of that city when the first steamboat went on its trial trip up the Hudson River. He continued actively engaged in professional practice in the Empire state until 1837, when he came to Illinois by way of Pittsburgh, Pa., the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and up the Illinois River to Peru. He opened an office at that point and practiced there three years, while the Illinois & Michigan canal was in process of construction. He then removed to what is now known as Kendall County, and here continued to dwell until he died, in 1877. At an early day he espoused the cause of the Abolitionists, and later became a strong free-soil worker and eventually a Republican. He was active in religious enterprises for many decades, loyally supporting the Presbyterian Church. The wife of Dr. Seely bore the girlhood name of Millicent Tuttle, and their marriage took place in New York state. Mrs. Seely was a daughter of Capt. John Tuttle, who was a soldier of the war of 1812, and whose ancestors also came from Lancashire, England.

Edmund Seely was born in Chester, Orange County, N. Y., January 10, 1827, and it was not until he was in his eleventh year that he came to Illinois. He remained with his father until he reached manhood and in 1846 settled upon the fine homestead in Na-au-say Township, where the rest of his long and useful life was spent. At first he bought three hundred acres, on which



no improvements had been made, and here built a log house, 16x20 feet in dimensions, subsequently adding wings to this structure. The present house of the family was erected in 1859, and later additions and improvements were instituted, thus making it a thoroughly convenient and comfortable home. For a number of years Mr. Seely was obliged to haul his crops to Chicago, and during the Civil war he was extensively and profitably engaged in the raising of live stock, including horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. The land, comprising three hundred and ten acres, was reduced to a high state of cultivation by the thrifty owner, and the judicious use of tiling greatly improved the property. At the Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago, in 1893, he exhibited the old wooden plow which had been used by his father on the farm of Major Davis, south of Oswego, many decades ago.

Following in the footsteps of his honored father, Mr. Seely gave his political influence to the Republican party from the time of its organization. For nearly sixty years he was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and during much of his mature life he held the office of an elder in that denomination. He was one of the charter members of the Na-au-say church and was present and read a history of the same at the time of its half-century anniversary, in September, 1898. In 1870 he was appointed as a delegate to the Presbyterian general assembly at Philadelphia, and at all times was looked up to and considered an authority by his associates. He was faithful in the performance of every duty and in his daily life exemplified the lofty, noble Christian principles which had been instilled in him in his youth. His generosity, kindness and hospitality endeared him to all who knew him, and his memory will be cherished in the hearts of his innumerable friends. His life came to a peaceful close at his home, March 21, 1900.

Thus, after forty-five years of happy married life, the union of Mr. Seely and wife was severed. The widow, whose maiden name was Jane G. McLain, was born in Ripley, Brown County, Ohio, and was married to Mr. Seely in December, 1855. Of her three children, the eldest

died at the age of three and a-half years and Frank and Clara survive. The son, an enterprising farmer, married Emma Louisa, daughter of Frederick B. Hills, of Aurora, and four children bless their union. Mr. Hills was born in a log cabin at Big Grove, Kendall County, in which locality his father was a pioneer. The latter, Eben M. Hills, was born in Goshen, Conn., October 8, 1801, and in 1833 removed with his family to this section of Illinois, making the entire journey from New York in a covered wagon, which served as a shelter until a cabin could be constructed. Later he made a claim near Lisbon, and there built one of the first frame houses erected on the prairie. He also aided in the organization of the first church in Big Grove Township and the building of Stone Academy. He was influential and widely respected, and his death, February 17, 1859, was considered a public loss.

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**G**EORGE BROWN. Through a life that was all too brief, Mr. Brown retained the confidence of associates and the warm regard of his friends. As his days on earth drew to a close he might truly have exclaimed, "The battle of our life is brief," for between the span of birth and death less than thirty-seven years intervened. Yet his life was not fruitless, for he gained success as a farmer and a high reputation as a citizen, husband and father. His name was a synonym for integrity and honor.

A son of Valmar and Emeline (Lord) Brown, Mr. Brown was born in LaSalle County, Ill., January 18, 1851. In childhood he accompanied his parents to Big Grove Township, Kendall County, where he grew to manhood on a farm. Being the only son and his father being engaged in traveling, in early youth he took charge of the home place, so that he acquired a thorough knowledge of agriculture while he was a mere boy. March 11, 1880, he married Mary, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Broadbent) Naden, and a native of Big Grove Township. After his marriage his father moved to town and left him in complete charge of the homestead. Later he



purchased eighty acres now owned by Henry Page, and on that place he and his wife made their home two years. He then bought a farm of one hundred acres from Curtis Lord, and on this place resided during the remainder of his life, dying here August 28, 1887. At the time of his death he owned three hundred and sixty-five acres, which has since been superintended by Mrs. Brown, with the greatest efficiency. In fact, she has proved herself a capable business woman, and has retained the high character of improvements and kept the land under the best cultivation. Few better farms could be found in the county. The estate is devoted to the raising of cereals, for which a ready market is found. At home with Mrs. Brown are her two children, Earl J. and Bessie E.

Fraternally Mr. Brown was a Mason and was connected with the Eastern Star Chapter. He was also identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors. In religion his views were those of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Mrs. Brown is also a member.

**W**ILLIAM PLATT is one of the well-known farmers of Kendall County and owns and occupies a fine farm in Seward Township, where he has lived for many years. Since coming to his present farm he has doubled its acreage, has made many improvements in the way of buildings, etc., and has energetically carried on the work of the farm, raising grain principally. On the eighty acres comprising his original homestead he has put in forty-four thousand rods of tiling. The best-improved farm machinery, including a corn sheller, grinders, etc., may be found on his place, and an adequate supply of water is furnished by two wind mills.

Mr. Platt was born in Hewton Moor, near Manchester, England, July 6, 1844, a son of Thomas Platt, a carpenter, who was engaged principally in repairing and making railroad cars. In the fall of 1859 the family came to America and settled in this county. They crossed in the sailer Lucy Thompson, which spent six

weeks in the voyage, meantime encountering one exceedingly severe storm and another not so severe; finally, after great delay by reason of the loss of the sails, the ship sailed into New York harbor. From there the family traveled by railroad to Buffalo, thence by lake to Cleveland, and from there by train to Joliet. Arriving in Kendall County, the father bought one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land. This he broke and placed under cultivation, and he has ever since engaged in farm pursuits, although at this writing, on account of advanced age, he has to some extent retired from active pursuits. While in England he married Anna Bostick, who died in this county in 1877. They had seven children, of whom the following survive: William, James, Jane, Samuel and Mary E.

When the family came to America our subject was fifteen years of age, and he well remembers the fearful storm they encountered on the ocean, when for a time all hope was lost and the passengers momentarily expected to be hurled to a watery grave. From Joliet he walked to Kendall County with his father and selected a suitable location for their home. He at once began to assist in the breaking of the prairie, and proved so efficient that he succeeded in breaking every acre but one, in the entire place. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company H, Eighty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was sent to the front, serving in Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia, and taking part in the battles of Stone River, Liberty Gap, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, etc. He accompanied General Sherman on his famous march to the sea, until he was wounded at Kenesaw Mountain, June 22, 1864. The wound was a serious one, his right hand being completely shattered by a gunshot, so that amputation was necessary. The operation was a serious one and left him so weak that for four days he could eat nothing whatever. Slowly, however, his strong constitution triumphed, and he was able to leave the field hospital for more comfortable quarters in Chattanooga and later in Nashville. From the latter city he was returned home on a furlough. He refused to accept his discharge, for it was his ambition to return and

be of service to his country in some way until the war was ended. In 1865 he was honorably discharged, with a record as a soldier of which he and his might well be proud.

It was some months after his return home before Mr. Platt was able to engage at any work. In the spring of 1865 he rented forty acres, but a few months later he bought the eighty acres where he now lives. In the fall of 1894 he bought an adjoining eighty, so that he now has one hundred and sixty acres. All of the buildings on the home place were erected by him, and he did most of the work personally, only paying out \$30, altogether, for carpenter work on his house. He is connected with the Grand Army Post at Morris and in politics is a Republican. For two terms he served as path master and for nine years as school director. In religion he is connected with the First Congregational Church.

The first marriage of Mr. Platt was in the fall of 1864, when Ellen M. Putney became his wife. One child, Mary Elizabeth, was born of this union. By his second wife, Ellen Bannon, he had no children. He and his present wife, who was in maidenhood Bertha Larson, are the parents of five children, viz.: Sylvia May, William Sherman, Bert Ulysses, John Garfield and Oscar Winfield Grant.

**F**LAVIUS J. SLEEZER. The business interests of Newark have a capable representative in Mr. Sleezer, who is proprietor of a hardware store in this place, selling a general line of hardware and tinware and also doing a general repairing and manufacturing business. In addition to the management of the store he conducts a farm of thirty acres, on which he has a number of head of stock and engages in farming in a small way. He has also owned and conducted a blacksmith's business in the village. During the years from 1894 to 1897, in partnership with his brother, Charles Sleezer, he carried on a well-drilling business in Kendall, Grundy and LaSalle Counties, and in that time they sunk many of the deepest and most difficult wells in the vicinity, among these being the town well

of Newark and the well on Joseph Jackson's place in Millington. From early boyhood he has shown a talent for building and operating machinery. Among his early products were a windmill and tread power, and the well-drilling machinery operated by him as above related was of his own design and make. Since he came to Newark he has erected two houses, one in 1898, which he rents, and the other in 1896, which is owned by I. J. Miehle.

The genealogy of the Sleezer family is found in the sketch of Seth C. Sleezer, presented on another page. Flavius J. Sleezer was born on the family homestead in Kendall County June 12, 1863, a son of Seth C., Sr., and Eliza A. (Kellogg) Sleezer. His education was begun in common schools and completed in the high school at State Centre, Iowa. He remained with his parents until his marriage. March 31, 1886, he was united with Lois M., daughter of Samuel and Laura (Rolph) Lewis, the latter of whom, a widow, makes her home with her only child, Mrs. Sleezer, and our subject's widowed mother is also a resident of their home. Mrs. Sleezer was born in Jones County, Iowa, and accompanied her parents to LaSalle County, Ill., in childhood, where she grew to womanhood. By her marriage four children were born: Ethel M., Viola, Dewey Lee and Fannie M.

After his marriage Mr. Sleezer rented land near the old homestead. Five years later he bought the Harrington farm of eighty acres, which remained his home until 1895. During the last years of his residence on that farm he and his wife gave their attention principally to raising poultry, and carried all the leading breeds, including Light Brahmas, Rose Comb Wyandottes, Barred Plymouth Rocks and Brown Leghorns, also Mammoth Bronze turkeys, Toulouse geese and Pekin ducks. Their trade became quite large, including not only consignments of eggs to markets, but also shipments of poultry throughout the country from Maine to California. In 1895 he disposed of the farm and poultry business and moved to Newark, where he organized the firm of Sleezer & Sinclair. After eighteen months Fred Kellogg became a



member of the firm, buying Mr. Sinclair's interest, and the title was afterward Sleezer & Kellogg until our subject purchased his partner's interest in 1898, since which time he has conducted the business alone. In June, 1900, he perfected a free rural mail delivery box, on which a patent was allowed on the 15th of the following August. He also has invented a machine for their manufacture, owing to the increased demand, and this was placed in operation November 1. With his increased facilities he is able to supply the present demand, and in this short time has established a business which is destined to reach a great volume. Made of galvanized iron, it is provided with signal flags of metal to indicate mail for collection by the carrier or for the owner of the box.

Supporting principle rather than party, Mr. Sleezer has never identified himself with any political organization, but gives his influence to such men as he believes most trustworthy and efficient. He has served as a member of the town board. A man of strict temperance principles, he gives his support to the temperance cause, believing it to be one of the most important movements for the benefit of humanity. Both he and his wife are active members of the Baptist Church, and he filled the office of assistant Sunday-school superintendent for some years. He is a well-educated young man, and both before and after his marriage taught in his home district, but of late years other business matters have taken his entire attention, to the exclusion of educational work.

**GABRIEL S. ROE.** Kendall County has no more reliable, patriotic citizen than Gabriel S. Roe, who, in a quiet, unassuming manner, performs every duty, and had led a life worthy of emulation. He is of Scotch and Welsh extraction and possesses in a marked degree the innumerable sterling characteristics of his ancestors, including those of deep thoughtfulness and a keen sense of responsibility in all of his relations toward God and mankind.

The paternal grandfather of the above-named

gentleman was William Roe, who married Miss Mittie Ann Mapes. He came to America and settled near Chester, N. Y., and became an important factor in the work of the Presbyterian Church, being known as "the elder." Nathaniel, father of G. S. Roe, was born in Chester, N. Y., November 11, 1815, and at a tender age was orphaned, and thenceforward was dependent upon his own resources. He was actively and successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits and dairying in Chester for a number of years, and by industry accumulated a competence for age.

He wedded Sarah, daughter of Gen. Charles Board, and five sons and one daughter were born to this worthy couple. Mrs. Roe was a granddaughter of Joseph Board, who, with his two brothers, James and David, emigrated from Wales to the United States at an early period and settled in a village which was afterwards known as Boardville, N. J. There they had charge of a great, prospering ironworks, and in time they were owners of fifteen hundred acres of land there.

Politically Nathaniel Roe was affiliated with the Democratic party. He served the people of his town as assessor, and in 1877 was made a member of the local board of supervisors. From 1849 to the time of his death, December 9, 1884, he held the office of elder in the Presbyterian Church, and few members of his community who have been called from its midst during the past quarter of a century have been more sincerely and widely mourned. About fifteen years after the death of the husband the wife and mother was summoned to her reward, and was placed to rest by his side in the peaceful cemetery at Chester. A beautiful memorial window, placed in the Chester Presbyterian Church, recalls to the minds of those who were acquainted with those noble souls their grand, unselfish, sympathetic lives.

Gabriel Seely Roe, who was born in Chester, Orange County, N. Y., August 28, 1845, was reared in the quiet routine of farm work and it was not until 1871 that he bade adieu to the home he loved and set forth to make his own way in the west. After staying in Illinois for a short



time he went to Kansas and spent three months in the Neosho Valley. The young man did not like Kansas, on the whole, and therefore went to Iowa, where he prospected three months, seeking a good opening for business. However, in the early part of 1874 he returned to Illinois, and on the 11th of April of that year bought two hundred and sixty-two and one-half acres in Kendall Township—his present home. For the past twenty-six years he has been actively occupied in cultivating and developing his homestead, which is considered one of the model farms of this county. He has been especially successful in the dairy business, and sometimes ships milk to Bristol and often to Yorkville. He keeps a high grade of live stock, the fifty head of cattle which he owns at present being Durhams, while he also raises Poland-China swine, black-faced sheep and standard horses. He raises what grain he needs for his stock, and his farm supplies his household with a large share of the necessities of daily life.

During the Centennial year, October 12, 1876, Mr. Roe married Louisa C. Dean, daughter of John M. Dean, a bridge-builder, and a resident of Rock Island. Hannah E., eldest born of Mr. and Mrs. Roe, is the wife of Alexander Wilson, of Worthington, Minn., and Abigail G., the youngest child, lives with her parents. Thomas B., the only son, died when in his fourteenth year. Mr. Roe has served as a member of the local school board. He uses his ballot in favor of the Democratic party, and has steadily declined any official honors. Religiously he is a Congregationalist, and holds membership in the North Yorkville Church.

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**J**AMES AARON GODARD. The family of which James A. Godard is the only surviving representative was numbered among the early settlers of Kendall County, and since the infancy of this county the father and son have borne a full share in its development and progress.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Aaron Godard, was a native of Connecticut, and came in 1836 to Illinois, where he died in 1848, in his

seventy-ninth year. His son, Chauncey Y. Godard, was born near Rome, N. Y., in 1810. In 1833 he came to Chicago on horseback, and, in company with his brother, William A. Godard, assisted in the building of the first landing pier erected in that place. Later they proceeded down the Fox River and took up a claim in what now is known as Kendall County. Here they were the first to do plowing north of the Fox River, and for years the Indians were much more plentiful in this region than the white race. On their way west their money was exhausted and they took the job of building a barn at White Pigeon, Mich., to secure the means of continuing their journey. Before the young men arrived in Chicago they learned that they would be unable to buy feed there for the horses which had so faithfully carried them from the Empire state, and, at what is now South Chicago, they sold them to a man who, as he had no ready money, gave a note in exchange. Some months afterward, when the brothers applied to him for payment, he pleaded that he could not meet their demands, owing to continued illness and expense, and they were obliged to take back the horses. Accordingly they rode on horseback to their old eastern home, and for several years they made an annual visit to their relatives in New York. In 1836 Chauncey Y. Godard brought to his prairie home his new wife, formerly Rachel Ann Green, who shared his fortunes until her death in 1868. In 1840 the worthy couple made the long journey to New York state in an old-time prairie schooner, and the wife spent the next three years in that more civilized community. During the absences of the father from his possessions in Illinois his claims were "jumped" several times, and, as he was of an extremely mild and peaceful disposition and would not engage in litigation, he merely settled elsewhere each time. In 1845 he located on a tract of land situated three miles north of Yorkville, and continued to dwell there until 1868, when he moved to North Yorkville, where his life came to a peaceful close October 12, 1898. He was a staunch adherent of the Republican party after its organization, and in his township he frequently occupied local offices.

For two-score years he was a deacon in the Baptist denomination, and for a score of years he acted in the additional capacity of chorister. He assisted materially in the construction of two churches in Yorkville and was active in all good works. Being an unflinching opponent to slavery, he was a leader in the abolition movement and often assisted escaping slaves on their way north.

James A. Godard was born at Mayville, N.Y., July 23, 1841, and in his boyhood attended the district schools of Kendall County. He was the only child, and, his parents being ambitious for him, he was later sent to school in his native county and to academies at Aurora, Galesburg and Rockford, Ill. He remained on the home farm until 1866, when he embarked in the hardware and grain business at Yorkville. In July, 1877, he became an agent for the Bradley Manufacturing Company, and during a period of twenty-one years, except while serving a term as a county officer, represented that concern on the road. He made an excellent record as a salesman, and always commanded a high salary and the respect and esteem of everyone with whom he had dealings. His labors were chiefly in Illinois, but for two years he traveled extensively in the west, visiting various points in Washington, California, Utah and Idaho.

Since arriving at maturity James A. Godard has been active in the Republican party and has officiated in numerous township positions, including that of the mayor of North Yorkville. For four years he served acceptably as circuit clerk and recorder, and during that period he made two complete abstracts, one of which is to be found in the court-house, while the other is in his possession. In January, 1899, he opened an office in Yorkville, and now carries on a large real estate and collection business. He also is a notary public and represents the Orient, Continental, Prussian National and Connecticut Insurance Companies. Of late years he has been considerably interested in building enterprises here, as he has erected the elevator, two stores, the brick Union Block, his own residence and other business locations.

The marriage of Mr. Godard and Elizabeth Wilbur was celebrated October 30, 1862. Their eldest child, Dwight, a fine musician, is a member of the Military Band and Orchestra of Aurora, Ill., and is a well-known composer of music. Minnie, Mrs. Theodore Worcester, of Aurora, also is a talented musician, and, besides being a teacher of the piano and organ, has been organist of the New England Congregational Church of her city for the past eight years. Gertrude, Mrs. William Alcott, who for two years was at the head of the millinery department of the largest store in Aurora, and now occupies a similar position with Mandel Brothers in Chicago, is a lady of notable elocutionary achievements and was awarded several gold and diamond medals in Demerest's oratorical contests. Gerald D., who is a good violinist, made an enviable record during the Spanish-American war, as he enlisted in the Thirty-third Michigan Infantry and was one of the troops which participated in the Santiago (Cuba) campaign. The beloved wife and mother was summoned to the silent land July 4, 1888, and subsequently our subject wedded Mrs. Jennie Godard, widow of George Godard. Her father, Robert McMurtrie, was one of the pioneers of this county, having arrived here in 1838.

The children of J. A. Godard may trace their unusual musical ability to hereditary influence, as the father was likewise gifted by nature, and for eighteen years was a member and business manager of the Kendall Cornet Band. Fraternally he is a member of Kendall Lodge No. 471, A. F. & A. M.

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**F**RANK P. TYLER. The farm owned and occupied by Mr. Tyler is one of the best to be found in that favored portion of Kendall County known as Little Rock Township. Its appearance does credit to the owner's progressive and energetic spirit, and proves him to be a man of thrift and industry. The property is the old family homestead, which, after his father's death and through the purchase of the other heirs' interests, came into his possession. The grain that is raised on the farm is used wholly for feeding



his stock, of which he has a fine assortment of Norman horses, Poland-China hogs, and Polled-Angus cattle. One hundred and sixty acres of the farm are under the plow, the remainder being used for the pasturage of the stock. In addition to the stock on his farm he is owner of five shares in the company that owns a valuable imported stallion.

The father of our subject, Orrin Tyler, was a native of New York and there grew to manhood and married. In 1853 he removed from that state to Illinois and settled in Kendall County, buying a tract of farm land for which he paid \$13 an acre and which consisted of eighty acres. The place was practically wild prairie. Little land had been broken and no attempt had been made at improvement. With two yoke of oxen he broke the land, after which he planted various farm products. From the first he has prospered. In 1860 he bought forty acres, for which he paid \$25 an acre. Besides raising grain, he devoted some attention to the stock business, which he found a profitable industry. He was interested in local affairs and often served as a delegate to conventions of the Republican party. At the time of his death he was about sixty years of age. A few years before he moved from New York he married Eleanor Chambers. The oldest of their seven children, our subject, was born in Tompkins County, N. Y., November 1, 1852. Being an infant at the time the family removed west, he remembers no other home than this. He assisted in the improving and cultivating of the land from the time he was large enough to handle a plow. After he was twenty-one his father paid him wages. Ten years later he married and became sole proprietor of the farm, which he worked on shares, continuing in that way until the death of his father, when he purchased the property.

Reared in the Republican party, Mr. Tyler has always been firm in his adherence to its principles. Frequently he has been delegate to county or senatorial conventions. His long service (twenty years) as a member of the school board proves his efficiency as a director of the

schools. Equally efficient, too, he has proved as highway commissioner, to which office, after having filled it for nine years, he was re-elected in 1900 for a term of three years. Fraternally he is connected with the Woodmen and the Home Forum. His marriage took place January 10, 1884, and united him with Emma, daughter of Enos and Eliza Hughes. They have one son, Vernon Tyler, who is now attending school in Plano.

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**S**AMUEL NORMANDIN, sheriff of Kendall County, is one of its most esteemed citizens and public officers. His record is of a character of which he has reason to be proud, and he neglects no opportunity to advance and protect the interests of the public.

The fiftieth wedding anniversary of our subject's parents, Peter and Matilda (Le Parle) Normandin, was celebrated January 22, 1900, at their home in Waterman, Ill. The occasion was a joyous one, and for the first time in years the family were united, all of the eight children being present to share in the happiness of their parents.

The father, who is a native of Canada, and whose marriage took place in Montreal, came to Illinois at an early day, and for many years was successfully engaged in farming in the vicinity of Kankakee. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist Church and are highly esteemed. Their children are named as follows: Edward, of Ellsworth, Iowa; Julia, residing at Waterman, Ill.; Levi P., of Jackson, Mich.; Emma, wife of Ellis Mighells, of Plano, Ill.; Napoleon L., of Chicago; Samuel, of this sketch; Eugenie, wife of Charles Fuller, of Waterman; and John, of Chicago.

The birth of Samuel Normandin occurred in Kankakee, Ill., September 28, 1862, and in this state he was reared to maturity. He resided for a period at Aurora, and later made his home at Waterman, Ill. When he was in his eighteenth year he went to Jackson, Mich., where he worked in the Michigan Central Railroad locomotive shops and thoroughly mastered the trade of a machinist. After spending three years there he



returned to Illinois and made his home in Plano, where he was employed in the shops of the Plano Manufacturing Company until the business was removed to West Pullman.

From the time that he arrived at his majority Mr. Normandin has been identified with the Republican party. He has acted as marshal, constable, deputy-sheriff, and finally, in November, 1898, was elected sheriff of this county by a handsome majority, running far ahead of his ticket.

Fraternally Mr. Normandin is a member of Kendall Lodge No. 471, A. F. & A. M., and for the past twelve years has been identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. In September, 1887, he married Elizabeth Boda, of Plano, Ill. Four children bless their union, namely: Viola, Roy, Nina and Iva.

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**HON. JOHN REDMAN MARSHALL.** One of the greatest factors in the development of a community,—in the extension of its interests, the deepening of its influence, and the progress of its industries, is the newspaper; and especially is this the case where the paper is edited by a man of logical mind, far-seeing judgment, and broad, progressive spirit. It is largely due to the exercise of these traits that Mr. Marshall has made of the *Kendall County Record* a paper that stands for all that is highest, noblest and most to be desired. He is a well known figure in the journalism of this locality. To a marked degree he possesses the characteristics of a successful journalist. His pen is ready and forceful; his logic is keen, his mind impartial, unswerved by petty prejudices. To all the changes that have come into the realm of journalism since his identification therewith he has readily adapted himself, and, in fact, this adaptability to changing conditions is among his noticeable characteristics. The paper, which he founded in 1864, and of which he has since been the ruling spirit, is an eight-page weekly of six columns. So great is its influence that it is known throughout the entire county. Its circulation of eighteen hundred is remarkable when it

is remembered that this county has a population of but twelve thousand. Without any doubt the high standing of the weekly is due to the wise oversight of its proprietor and publisher.

Mr. Marshall was born in Talbot County, Md., January 10, 1837, a son of Perry and Mary S. (Rice) Marshall. His father, Perry Marshall, who was a member of an old family of Maryland, and was born near St. Michael's, that state, came to Illinois in the spring of 1848. In 1857 he came to Kendall County and bought a tract of land, on which he settled. In 1872 he moved to Clifton, Ill., and there he died in October, 1892, at the age of eighty-six years. Of his seven children the sole survivors are John R., and Dr. N. R. Marshall, of Evanston, Ill.

At the time the family settled in Illinois the subject of this article was a boy of eleven years. In 1852 he was apprenticed to the printer's trade in the old Journal office in Chicago, where he remained for four years, and afterward he followed the trade in various places. At the outbreak of the Civil war, in May, 1861, he enlisted in a company of Sturges' Rifles, in Chicago. He was assigned to the army of the Potomac, in which he served for two years, and during part of that time was a member of the body guard of General McClellan. At the expiration of two years he was honorably discharged, by order of the secretary of war. It is a noteworthy fact that he had two brothers who also served in the Union army.

After retiring from the service Mr. Marshall came to Kendall County and started the *Kendall County Record*, in April, 1864. From that time to this he has been one of the foremost citizens of Yorkville. Especially in politics and local enterprises has he been active. The Republican party has in him a staunch supporter of its principles. In 1868 he was elected county superintendent of schools, four years later he was re-elected, filling the office for eight consecutive years. A higher honor was conferred upon him a little later, in 1878, when he was elected to the state senate. He served in two regular and one extra session. In this body, as elsewhere, he was known for his manly stand in behalf of movements for the benefit of the people. He has ever stood as a

champion of the people and a defender of their rights. Under President McKinley he was commissioned to the office of postmaster at Yorkville. Socially he is connected with the Hamilton Club of Chicago. In 1865, on the organization of Kendall Lodge No. 471, A. F. & A. M., he was a charter member, and he is also connected with Aurora Chapter, R. A. M., and Aurora Commandery, K. T. He keeps in touch with the veterans of the late war through membership in Yorkville Post No. 522, G. A. R. He is the owner of improved property in Yorkville, including his office building, erected in 1868, and his residence on the north side. His marriage, January 19, 1865, united him with Augusta Emmons, of Bristol Township. They have three children: Mary S., wife of Dr. R. A. McClelland, of Yorkville; Frances Emmons; and Hugh Rice, who is deputy postmaster.

**W**ILLIAM REYNOLDS NEWTON, who for twenty years has served as a member of the village board of Yorkville, has officiated as president of this honorable body for a number of years, and has borne an influential part in the upbuilding of this now thriving place.

The Newton family is one of the pioneer families of Kendall County, as for some sixty-eight years its history has been closely identified with that of this immediate region. Our subject's father, Ami D. Newton, who was born in Binghamton, N. Y., was a mere child when he accompanied his father, Elisha Newton, to Illinois in 1832. The latter took up a homestead in this county and followed farming and later engaged in mercantile pursuits at Newark. He also owned and managed a hotel there, it being acknowledged as the most important one between Aurora and Ottawa. Ami D. Newton was early employed in the hotel, and for several years he served as postmaster of the town. He was an active worker in the Republican party and for sixteen years served as sheriff of this county, his home, in the meantime, being at Yorkville. Later he was the supervisor of Kendall Town-

ship for a period. He was a charter member of the Newark lodge of Odd Fellows, and was an earnest member of the Methodist Church for years. In 1898 he died suddenly at his home, at the ripe age of seventy-three years, and is survived by his widow. She was Miss Mary Hollenback in her girlhood, and to their union four children were born. Henry H., of Plainfield, is the present deputy sheriff of Will County, Ill. Cora Belle, who married E. W. Jackson, is deceased. Robert N. is employed in his eldest brother's bank.

William R. Newton was born in Kendall County in 1850, and in his youth received an excellent education, completing his studies at Fowler Institute in Newark. He then embarked in the drug business at Yorkville, for several years, in partnership with C. E. Moore. In 1886 they also engaged in the banking business, and later Mr. Newton sold out his interest in the drug store and turned his attention exclusively to the management of his bank, in which enterprise he has been alone for some time. The building in which his bank, known as the Yorkville Bank, is now located was formerly the property of the Kendall County Banking Company, which failed in the financial panic of 1893. Mr. Newton then purchased the building, and since that time has been associated with his brother in the banking business which has steadily increased in importance. It is known far and wide as one of the reliable, stable financial concerns of this county, and its affairs are managed with rare judgment and foresight. Mr. Newton has transacted considerable insurance business for a number of years, and, representing most of the leading companies of this country, he now commands much of the local business in this line. In his bank one department is devoted to safety vaults, where local customers and citizens deposit their valuables for protection.

Politically Mr. Newton has taken an influential part in Republican councils, and for the past ten years he has been chairman of the county central committee. He frequently has been sent to the county and state conventions of his party as a delegate, and, during Governor Fifer's ad-



ministration he served for two years as a trustee of the Jacksonville Insane Asylum. Fraternally he is a member of Kendall Lodge No. 471, A.F. & A. M., in which he has held the office of senior warden, and also has attained the degree of a Knight Templar, being connected with Aurora Commandery.

The marriage of Mr. Newton and Louise B. Black was celebrated in October, 1879. She is a daughter of Elias A. Black, who was a prominent and wealthy citizen of this county, owning valuable estates and having capital invested in various enterprises, including grist mills at Millington, paper mills and mercantile business at Marseilles and Yorkville. Mr. and Mrs. Newton have one child, Adele B. The home of the family is beautifully situated on the summit of a bluff, commanding a fine view of the river and surrounding country.

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**H**ENRY M. HOPKINS. Kendall Township, Kendall County, is fortunate in possessing numerous enterprising agriculturists, and one of the chief is Henry McLean Hopkins, whose residence in this county covers a period of some forty-three years.

The paternal grandfather of the above-named gentleman was Archibald Hopkins, a native of Virginia, who at an early day settled in Brown County, Ohio, where he successfully engaged in farming and also carried on a mill where flax seed was manufactured into oil. His son, Archibald Hopkins, our subject's father, also followed that occupation between the years 1835 and 1840. He then removed to the central part of Ohio, and some years later started in a wagon on a journey to Aurora. The family came on the cars, and arrived ahead of him. A year afterward, in 1857, he came to Kendall County, where he bought a farm which had been partly improved. He made a specialty of raising live stock, particularly during the '60s, when high prices were paid in the city markets. Politically he was a

stalwart Republican, and religiously was a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church. He was called to the better land in March, 1874, and was survived by his wife, who departed this life October 1, 1887. She was Miss Rachel McLean in her girlhood, and, though she was born and reared in Ohio, she came of an old Pennsylvania family. Of her six children three died when young and May Alice when sixteen years of age. Amanda, the eldest surviving member of the family, is the wife of Hamilton Cherry, of this county.

Henry M. Hopkins, of this sketch, was born in Ripley, Ohio, August 21, 1845. He made the trip with the family to Aurora in 1856, and in the ensuing year became a permanent resident of this county. He devoted his time to assisting his father in his pioneer labors on the prairie. When he attained his majority he entered into an agreement with his senior and together they harmoniously conducted the home place. After the death of the father the young man succeeded to a part of the property, and in 1878 built his present comfortable house on the place. He has instituted many other improvements here, and by tiling and careful cultivating has succeeded in raising profitable harvests. He makes a specialty of feeding cattle and raising swine and sheep.

For some time Mr. Hopkins served as a director of the local school board. He uses his ballot in favor of the Prohibition party, and religiously inclines toward the Presbyterian faith, his family being identified with a church of that denomination.

On the 12th of October, 1876, Mr. Hopkins married Josephine Small, daughter of Alexander Small, who came to this county in 1847 and settled in Oswego Township. He was born in Washington County, N. Y., while his daughter, Mrs. Hopkins, is a native of Illinois. Mary Alice, the elder child of our subject and wife, is at present attending college at Oberlin, Ohio. James A., the only son, is a student in the schools of Quincy, Ill.







*Al. Gabel*

Photo by Benensohn, Yorkville, Ill.

AUGUSTUS CHRISTOPHER GABEL.

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**A**UGUSTUS CHRISTOPHER GABEL. Having inherited the sterling virtues of his German ancestors, Augustus C. Gabel was early observed to be on the high road to a place of influence and respect in this community, and the promise of his youth has been fully realized in his maturity. He is a man of high principles and broad mind, and with the true spirit of patriotism he upholds every measure calculated to benefit the community in which he dwells and the general public.

His father, J. Henry Gabel, also an honored citizen of Kendall County, settled here half a century ago, and was associated thenceforth with its development. He was born in Nassau, Germany, October 30, 1813, and married in his Fatherland Annie K. Betz, whose birth had occurred March 20, 1816. He learned and practiced the trade of wagon-making for a number of years. Having been economical and industrious, he at last wished to buy a farm, but found it impossible to purchase any property in his locality. Naturally this fact roused his spirit, and he decided to emigrate to a freer land, where even the laboring man can obtain a foothold and honor. Accordingly he embarked in a ship in the spring of 1850 and had a safe journey, arriving in New York City at the end of three weeks. Thence he proceeded westward by river and canal and the great lakes to Chicago, arriving in June. Near Somonauk, Ill., he invested most of his capital in an eighty-acre tract of land, and five years later became the owner of a quarter section of land in Kendall Township, Kendall County—the present homestead of our subject. The father made a success of his industrious efforts and for years was extensively occupied in

raising grain for the markets of Joliet and Lockport. He served as a school director and as an official of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, which he was instrumental in organizing in his township. He was a member of the Lutheran Church, and died, firm in his faith, December 5, 1880, while his wife survived him until April 12, 1888. Of their ten children six have passed to the silent land. Two died in infancy in Germany, and William died in Illinois. Louise, the fourth child, married Siefert Frederick Hahnenstein, and resided opposite her parents until her death. Caroline, the eighth, died at the home of her parents, when eighteen years old; and Mary, the tenth, died in childhood. Henry G. Gabel, M. D., the eldest of those living, was born October 27, 1841, and is practicing medicine in Aurora, Ill. Lewis J. is a farmer of Na-au-say Township; and Theodore C. resides near Plattville, Ill.

Augustus C. Gabel was born in Somonauk, DeKalb County, Ill., September 18, 1852, and as he was brought to Kendall County at the age of three years, feels that he is practically one of its life-long inhabitants. After completing a course of study in the district schools he attended the Aurora Seminary two terms, and by subsequent reading and observation has increased his general information. Under the instruction of his father he mastered the details of farming when he was young, and from his eighteenth year had charge of the old homestead. When his father's estate was settled he bought out the interest of the other heirs in the family homestead, and since that time has purchased another tract of eighty acres. In addition to this two hundred and fifty-two acres, he also owns land in Kansas. En-



gaged in general farming, he keeps from seventy to one hundred and fifty swine and some fine Shropshire sheep. He also keeps from twenty to twenty-five cows, and, having become a stockholder in the Kendall Co-operative Creamery Company of Na-au-say Township, sends milk daily to that plant, which is transacting an excellent business. He has introduced the breeding of mules in his locality and is meeting with a success which has led his neighbors to engage in the same line of business.

Locally Mr. Gabel bears an enviable reputation, and at present holds the office of first vice-president of the Farmers' Institute, and is one of the directors and examiners of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company. For eight years he has acted in the capacity of a justice of the peace, which office he still holds, and for many years was a director of schools. Like his father before him, he is a Democrat in political principles, but at the same time attaches greater importance to the Prohibition issue than do the majority of his political brethren. Being of a progressive mind, he was among the first in his neighborhood to place a telephone in his house.

About a score of years ago Mr. Gabel married Sarah E. Smith, the ceremony which united their destinies being performed June 3, 1880. They have two children, a daughter and a son, to whom the names of Carrie J. and Glenn A. were given. The daughter now is attending the Aurora high school, and, being an apt student, is at the head of her classes, and is developing a high artistic talent. Mrs. Gabel is a native of Howard, Center County, Pa., the youngest daughter in a large family, and when ten years old came to this county with her parents—Daniel Monroe and Caroline (Gardner) Smith. Both the parents were natives of the same county and were of German and English descent. The father died November 24, 1898, and his widow is now making her home with Mr. Gabel. Her six sons and two daughters are still living, namely: John Toner, Minerva Jane, Washington Gardner, Newton Jasper, Sarah Elizabeth, Ebenezer Augustus, Elmer Ellsworth and Daniel Weaver Hall. The elder daughter is the wife James

Kimble, residing in Mitchell, S. Dak. The eldest son is a citizen of Hoopston, Ill., as are also the third and fourth. The second resides at Harper, Kans., the fifth in Mitchell, S. Dak., and the youngest on the family homestead near Plattville.

**D**ANIEL PLATT, SR. During the long period of his residence in Kendall County Mr. Platt retained the affectionate confidence and esteem of associates and the respect of acquaintances. Coming to this state in 1833, in the following year he settled upon the farm where the remainder of his life was busily and quietly passed. Plattville was named in his honor and perpetuates his name in local history, while in other ways he left an indelible impress upon his county. His children remain in this county, and by their honorable lives add to the prestige of a good old family name. The family is supposed to be of English origin.

The father of our subject, Thomas Platt, married Polly, daughter of Thomas Herrick, who was born near Boston, Mass. After his marriage he settled near Lake Champlain, in New York state, but later moved to St. Lawrence County, the same state, where he and his wife died. Their children were: Miriam, Leafy, Betsey, Nelson, Daniel, Edith, Polly and Priscilla. Daniel was born at Plattsburg, N. Y., March 3, 1810, and was left an orphan at an early age, after which, being thrown upon his own resources, he worked at any occupation he could secure. At first his wages were small, barely sufficient for board and clothing, but as he approached manhood his earning capacity increased and the returns were proportionately larger.

January 18, 1832, Mr. Platt married Esther Ricketson, who was born at Peru, Clinton County, N. Y., March 10, 1816, being the third daughter among the seven children of Jonathan and Esther Ricketson, Quakers. The other children were: Catherine, Paulina, Henry, Martha, Jane and Eleanor, of whom only Henry, of Plattville, and Eleanor, Mrs. Reuben Kingman, are now living. Catherine married Clark B. Alford, and settled in DeKalb County, where

she died. Paulina became the wife of John McCloud; Martha married George Edmunds and settled in Iowa; Jane, Mrs. John McLean, also settled in Iowa.

In August, 1833, Mr. Platt started west via wagon. With him were three families, including his sisters: Betsey, Mrs. Thorn; Polly, Mrs. Robert Fowler; and Edith, Mrs. Miller, who with their husbands were intending to settle in the west. An unmarried sister, Priscilla Platt, accompanied the party also. They reached what is now Plainfield, Will County, Ill., October 26, 1833, and spent the winter there. Mr. and Mrs. Platt secured employment, at \$25 a month, with Mr. Carpenter, proprietor of a tavern at Plainfield. In March Mr. Platt left his wife there and came to Kendall County, purchasing for \$75 a claim at AuSable Springs. On the claim was a board cabin, 10x10 feet in dimensions, which he tore down, using the lumber in making a floor for his new log house. The site of that early home is marked by the stone house owned by Blackman Bros., which was completed in 1842. At that time the stage came by the place, running from Chicago to Ottawa and Peoria. Soon after settling on the land Mr. Platt established a stage station and this he kept for several years. He was the first permanent settler in Lisbon Township. In those days it was necessary to go to Chicago for mail, and letter postage cost twenty-five cents, so that correspondence was infrequent. For three years he lived a lonely life on his prairie homestead, and had little ready money. When he came he bought a cow, for which he paid \$10, and then had only \$3 left. Building a frame house he made it his home until he built a stone house, 33x43 feet, the stone for which he hauled from a quarry five miles away, while the lumber was brought from Chicago. The original claim comprised six hundred and forty acres, but he gave a portion of the property to his father-in-law, another tract to his brother, Nelson, and also a piece to his son, so that he finally owned but one hundred and sixty acres of the claim. In 1856 he bought a stock of good which he placed in the building now owned by E. C. Stewart, and in it carried

on a general business until 1859. He then erected the building now occupied by Munson & Tremain, and in it continued the business until 1866, when he gave over his interests to his sons.

The entire life of Mr. Platt, with the exception of his last few years, was identified with frontier scenes. His childhood home was in Plattsburg, which his ancestors had founded and named, and which was the scene of a memorable battle between British and American troops, September 11, 1814. Although he was only four and one-half years of age at the time, the bloody engagement made an indelible impress upon his mind, and he carried its memory to his dying day. Becoming a pioneer of Kendall County, he assisted in its upbuilding, worked to secure the establishment of schools, assisted in opening and improving roads, and improving farm lands; in fact, was in every respect a model pioneer. In early life a Democrat, after the organization of the Republican party he supported its principles. He never consented to fill political offices, and though twice elected justice of the peace, refused to qualify. He had five children, Elizabeth, Daniel, Jr., Keziah, Albert and Levi. His death occurred at his homestead February 7, 1894, and his wife passed away ten days later.

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**R**OBERT N. NEWTON. Kendall County has few citizens who are better or more favorably known throughout northern Illinois than Robert N. Newton and his brother, William R., whose history appears elsewhere in this volume. Their father, Ami D. Newton, was one of the pioneers of this county, and early won an enviable reputation as a business man, financier and patriot. He and his father before him were connected with the management of one of the noted hotels of this region during the first years of our country's history. The people, with whom Ami D. Newton was justly popular, honored him with several offices of trust and responsibility, and he discharged his duties most creditably.



Robert Nelson Newton doubtless inherited his financial ability and general keenness and sagacity. He was born at Oswego, Kendall County, November 12, 1862, and was a child of two years when his parents removed to Yorkville. He attended the public schools of this place and of Newark, and was only thirteen years old when he commenced his career as a banker. From that age until he was sixteen he was employed as a clerk in the bank, and then, after an interval of a year spent in school, began to work for the firm of Willet & Welsh, dealers in agricultural implements. He continued with that house eight years, and next embarked in business on his own account. In partnership with William H. Healy he bought out the furniture establishment of Nelson Hubbard, and for the following six years they were associated in the business of furniture and undertaking. At the end of this period Mr. Newton purchased his partner's interest and carried on the business alone three years, then disposing of his stock of furniture. Since 1896 he has devoted much of his attention to the undertaking business, and carries a fine line of supplies in this line. For the past four years he also has been engaged in the banking business with his brother, and under their auspices the Yorkville Bank has become a flourishing institution.

Politically Mr. Newton has been interested in the success of the Republican party. In the fall of 1891 he was nominated for county treasurer, and, having been elected by a good majority, served in that important office three years. It had so happened that he was the only candidate on the Republican ticket for the treasurership, and thus from the beginning it appeared to be a personal matter and a popular choice. For the past twelve years he has been a member of the village board of trustees, serving in the office of town clerk. Fraternally he belongs to Kendall Lodge No. 471, A. F. & A. M.; the Sandwich Chapter, R. A. M.; the Odd Fellows and the Woodmen of the World.

Since 1894, when the Kendall County Fair Association was reorganized, Mr. Newton was elected secretary, and to his well-applied energy much of its success must be attributed. He has

acted as a judge and "starter" at races held at the tracks, and on account of his clear, distinct voice and quick, good judgment his services are in great demand. He has therefore been called upon to act as a starter at Sandwich, Rochelle, Fort Wayne, Ind., Galesburg, Joliet, Batavia, Aurora, Freeport and Chicago, and has won fresh laurels each time. When Joe Patchen lowered the world's wagon record at Ingall's Park, near Joliet, in the fall of 1898, Mr. Newton was the judge and starter on the occasion.

In 1896 Mr. Newton purchased the beautiful residence belonging to Mr. Cornell, and it has been his pride and pleasure to keep everything about the premises in a fine condition. May 8, 1890, Mr. Newton married Fannie M. Trimble, a daughter of C. D. Trimble, of Ottawa. They have three children, Arthur Trimble, Robert Russell and Cairo.

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JACOB BUDD. During all the years of his long life, covering the greater part of the nineteenth century, Mr. Budd retained the confidence of his associates, and esteem of his friends. As early as 1850 he became a resident of Kendall County, coming here from the east and settling in the village of Newark. This village was originally known as Georgetown and was laid out by George B. Hollenback, January 18, 1836. From Newark, in 1855, he removed to Fox Township and purchased two hundred and fifty acres on section 10, to which he added, from time to time, during the subsequent years until, at the time of his death, his landed possessions aggregated twelve hundred acres, well improved and stocked.

In Dutchess County, N. Y., near Fishkill, Mr. Budd was born November 11, 1811, a son of Elijah and Abigail (Sebring) Budd. His boyhood days were spent at the homestead in New York. While still a mere lad he became interested in farming, and this occupation he followed more or less throughout his entire life. Believing that Illinois offered greater advantages than New York to an ambitious but moneyless young man, he decided to seek a home in this state, and



in 1850 made the trip via lakes and overland to Kendall County, of which he afterward was a resident. For five years he engaged in the mercantile business at Newark, after which he turned his attention to stock-raising and general farming.

When the Fox River branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad was built Mr. Budd erected an elevator at Millbrook, which town he laid out and named, July 22, 1872. Afterward for years he was its most prominent business man. In addition to dealing in grain, he conducted a mercantile business for a number of years. He also served as supervisor of the township and postmaster of the village. During the later years of his life he devoted himself to the stock business and the management of his extensive landed interests. Advancing years obliged him, to a certain degree, to retire from active cares of business, but he continued to be remarkably active to the last. He died at his home, April 15, 1896, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. To his family and friends he left the priceless heritage of an honorable name and an upright life. In the annals of this county the name of such a man deserves to be perpetuated, for it represents all that is truest, highest and best in our citizenship.

The marriage of Mr. Budd, in 1855, united him with Miss Mary Ann Greenfield, who was born near Detroit, Mich., August 26, 1833, and in 1840 came to Kendall County with her parents, Samuel and Fannie (Leavitt) Greenfield. Seven children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Budd, namely: Jacob S., who is represented on another page of this volume; Amelia A., wife of W. H. Lawson, of Plano; Robert E., whose sketch appears elsewhere; Maggie E., wife of DeWitt Van Tasell, of Newark; Mary E., who married Clarence S. Williams, of Yorkville; Sherman J. and Frankie, all residents of Kendall County, and all, with the exception of two, residents of the township where for so many years their father made his home. The family residence was destroyed by fire October 1, 1895. Immediately afterward Mr. Budd began to make the plans for a new house, but died before the work could be carried into execution, and after

ward the residence was completed by his widow, who now occupies it. The house is equipped with modern conveniences and is one of the most substantial and comfortable in Millbrook.

ABRAM ZALMON BROWN, a former well-known citizen of Kendall County, now deceased, was born in the state of New York, November 22, 1827, a son of Abram Z. and Rachel (Bates) Brown, natives of New York. His parents died when he was six years of age, and in 1834 he was brought west and reared by his uncles, John and Harvey Bates, who were early settlers of Chicago and of Kendall County. His uncle Harvey lived on the banks of the Fox River near Millbrook, and with him he remained much of the time until he was eighteen years old. He then entered land on Christian Ridge and began farming and stock-raising on his own account. May 1, 1851, he married Sabrina, daughter of Thomas and Freelove (Van Tasell) Serine, natives of New York. She was born near Fishkill, in Dutchess County, N. Y., on Christmas day of 1830, and was eight years of age when the family settled in Illinois, establishing their home in Fox Township, Kendall County, where her father died June 24, 1893, and her mother some three years previous. Mrs. Brown was one of eleven children, five of whom are still living: Alanson and Philip own farms in Kendall County, Jacob is farming near Dysart, Iowa, and Mary is the wife of Isaac Scoggin, of Sandwich, Ill.

After his marriage Mr. Brown rented a farm in Mission Township, LaSalle County, for two years. In the fall of 1854 he removed to section 8, Big Grove Township, Kendall County, purchasing the place from Edward Edgerton. The fact that he possessed great courage is shown by his buying the place for \$3,000, when he could make a payment of only \$300 cash, giving for the balance his notes, extending over four years, and drawing ten per cent. interest. The result justified his act, for before the four years had expired the place was paid for. The original

property consisted of one hundred and twenty-one acres, to which he added until he now has one hundred and seventy acres. Besides farming he engaged in the stock business, being for years an extensive buyer and shipper of stock. He was a man of exceptional energy and determination, undaunted by hardships and undismayed by disaster. His honorable and conscientious character won him the respect of all associates. He was honest and conscientious to a degree seldom seen, as is shown by the fact that, when the price of stock advanced after he had bought, he would divide the profits with the seller. All during his active life he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which his wife also belongs. In politics he was a Republican. As school trustee he was active in educational matters.

Having come west so early in life, Mr. Brown lost all trace of his only sister, Mary. When he became a man he determined to find her, and after considerable difficulty at last ascertained her whereabouts. He brought her west to make her home with him and his wife, and for several years she taught school and music in Kendall and adjacent counties. She was married at the home of her brother to Edward Kennedy, and they moved to Marshalltown, Iowa, where she died in 1891.

The death of Mr. Brown occurred on his home farm June 25, 1893. Since that time Mrs. Brown has rented the farm, although superintending its management personally. In 1900 she purchased property in Sandwich, to which place she removed to establish her permanent home. Her only living son, George T., is living there. She had another son, Oscar W., who died in 1900.

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**H**ON. LEWIS STEWARD, deceased. No man in the county of Kendall has been more prominently identified in promoting the material growth of the county than he whose name heads this sketch. His whole life was practically passed here, as he was but thirteen years old when he was brought by his parents,

Marcus and Ursula (Hollister) Steward, who came to Kendall County in 1838 from Wayne County, Pa.

Mr. Steward was born in the latter county, November 20, 1824, and was the eldest of nine children. His mother was a lady of excellent education and taught him his alphabet when he was but twenty months old. He trudged to school all alone when he was very young, but the advantages he had were limited, as, when he was thirteen years of age, the family started for the west, driving through from Pennsylvania. They reached their destination in May of 1838, and the father, who was a farmer by vocation, pre-empted land in Little Rock Township, beginning the cultivation and improvement of a farm. In this work Lewis soon bore an active part, being the eldest of the children, so that through all the trying experiences of the pioneer existence, he bore his share. As soon as schools were organized he attended them during the winters, but soon acquired all the knowledge his teacher was able to impart (being of an exceptionally retentive turn of mind). This was as far as his attendance at any institution of learning went, but by a thorough course of reading he became one of the best-posted men of his township. Marcus Steward built a sawmill and subsequently a grist-mill. His son often said the family coat-of-arms should include a saw-mill, as its members had operated one for the last two hundred and fifty years.

In the days when Lewis Steward was first farming in this township he hauled his produce to Chicago; but later, when the old Strap railroad was laid nine miles out on the swampy prairie, the teams delivered their loads to the road there, saving that much hauling through the worst kind of roads. As he saw what a saving of time it would be if he did not have to go on to Chicago to dispose of the grain he made arrangements with an honest man to dispose of the grain and send the proceeds back by the train, so that an entire day was saved for the farmer. In this way he organized the first commission business carried on in Chicago. When the survey for the extension of the C. B. & Q. Railroad west of



Aurora was made it had been practically determined to run the road a couple of miles further south than it is located, but he visited the officers and soon succeeded in convincing them that the line through Plano was the better one, and knowing the lay of the land as thoroughly as he did, they could not dispute him, and in this way he succeeded in having the road laid out as it is at present.

There probably never would have been a city where Plano now stands were it not that his tireless energies had been directed to the upbuilding of the town; and that, combined with his foresight and management, he succeeded in getting so many industries located here that growth was a necessity and a natural sequence. In 1860 he began making the Marsh Harvester in Plano, and after its success was assured he sold out to Gammon & Deering. The machinery was then removed to Chicago and subsequently Mr. Steward organized the Plano Manufacturing Company, which was so successfully operated here for many years, and which gave employment to many men. He stood by the concern faithfully during the panic of 1873 and carried it through those trying times. In 1882 he disposed of his interest to E. H. Gammon and again returned to his favorite vocation, that of farming. In this he was successful. He added to his land here until he was in possession of over five thousand acres. In the care and management of his vast estate he showed a wonderful capacity for business. Instead of having everything down "in black and white," he carried almost all the details in his mind, and was never at a loss as to what to do and when to do it. He bred many fine horses, and sometimes had as many as fifteen hundred head of live stock on his places (many of them noted thoroughbreds). His estate seemed especially fitted for stock purposes, having Big Rock Creek winding through it. From this source he also secured the power to furnish a supply of water to the city and to run the two mills located at the eastern end of the city. He erected a commodious residence just off the main street and the fine grounds and surrounding groves of trees made it a most enjoyable

home. Here he took pleasure in entertaining his many friends, and being of a very hospitable nature he enjoyed their company as much as those he entertained enjoyed his generous hospitality. He was always considerate of youth and it was his delight to give pleasure to the young people. As an evidence of this, there are many living to-day who can tell of how he would load four or five hayracks with young folks and take them all to a circus in Aurora.

His personality was very strong. He had the power of bending other people to his will. He happened to be in Aurora when the citizens had their fire engines at the depot, ready to send to Chicago at the time of the great fire there; but the board of aldermen would not consent to having the apparatus leave the city. He mounted the car and addressed them, telling them if they would post people on their buildings with buckets of water while the engines were gone he would pay any damage that might occur, and in this way he obtained permission to have the apparatus sent to Chicago, and it was the first to respond of any of the adjacent cities.

In politics Mr. Steward was always an adherent of the Democratic party, though never seeking an office for himself. Owing to the assessments being very unsatisfactory, he was approached at noon of election day, at one time, and besought to be a candidate for assessor. He consented, and although there were five to one against him on political questions, he was elected and served two terms, after which he refused to hold the office longer. In spite of his protests he was elected supervisor, and was the only Democrat on the board. He was selected by the board to go to Springfield to straighten out some matters of injustice to the county in regard to the recruits from here and carried this duty to a satisfactory termination. He was also made chairman of the board of commissioners for removing the county seat and erecting the new courthouse at Yorkville.

In 1876 Mr. Steward was nominated by the Democratic and Granger state conventions as their candidate for governor. During the exciting campaign that followed he was approached



by a Chicago paper with a proposition that for a given sum he could be elected. He refused the offer, stating that he had not entered into the matter on a question of "buy or sell," and would have nothing to do with it. His personality and wide reputation, however, carried him to such an extent that in the state, which then gave a Republican majority of from thirty to fifty thousand, he cut the majority down to a bare five thousand.

Mr. Steward was twice married. His first wife was Cornelia Gale. Their only son, Lee, born April 9, 1855, died at Vienna, February 3, 1872, having gone to Europe to complete his education. Mrs. Steward died in 1858.

November 23, 1860, Mr. Steward married Mary Hunt, of Canaan, Conn. Her parents were Reuben and Emeline Hunt. The father was a graduate of Yale and was a lawyer in early life. Later he became an iron manufacturer. He came west to get started in farming, in which he hoped to interest his son. He was a great student and reader. During his connection with the iron business he made the first wrought-iron cannon ever manufactured (in 1841). Upon coming to Illinois he settled at Bristol, where he died at the age of eighty-four years. His wife was eighty-six at the time of her death. He was first a Whig and later a Democrat, and served as a member of the state legislature in Connecticut. To Mr. and Mrs. Steward seven children were born: Ruth, the eldest, who died when six weeks old; Julian R., whose sketch appears elsewhere; H. Greeley, born September 12, 1869, and died March 18, 1883; W. Deering, whose sketch appears elsewhere; G. S. Bangs, born April 12, 1874; C. Marsh, born May 18, 1876; and

T. Coulter, born May 12, 1879, died November 1, 1882.

Mr. Steward died August 27, 1896. His death was a great loss to the community of which he had so long been an honored and influential citizen. The loss was felt by all to be a heavy one, and acquaintances from every part of the county united in tendering sympathies to the immediate family and other relatives. He had been liberal to all churches and believed in Christianity as a great agency in reforming society, but detested all cant and hypocrisy. The lessons of the Christian faith, which he had learned in childhood, lingered in his soul throughout life and supported him in death. Among the many expressions of condolence received by his widow was a telegram from Archbishop Feehan, of Chicago, in which he said: "Receive from me, the representative of six hundred thousand Catholics in my diocese, our sympathy in this sad hour of your affliction. The services your deceased husband rendered in the erection of a Catholic Church at Plano are not forgotten. The kindly hospitality extended to our apostolic delegate (Satolli) will go down in history, remembered here and at Rome, the center of Catholicity." He was a promoter of every benevolent and charitable enterprise within the range of his influence. His liberality to churches of every sect, as he aided in their foundation and through all the years in the active advancement of their work, was constant and almost beyond computation; and at his grave priest and minister, Catholics and Protestants, united in the last tribute of respect to one who had been to them a constant and generous friend.





HON. HENRY S. HUDSON



## HON. HENRY SUMNER HUDSON.

HON. HENRY SUMNER HUDSON. This well-known citizen of Yorkville has a remarkable record on the bench, having served as county judge of Kendall County continuously since 1865. He is of English descent. The progenitor of the family in America crossed the ocean in 1713 with a small colony who had a land grant and who settled in Worcester County, Mass. Of the members of the colony the Hudsons are the only ones who retain the same land in their family to-day. Judge Hudson's grandfather, John, his father, Joseph, and he himself were born in the same house, the Oxford homestead having been in the family for six generations. His grandfather was a friend of John Milton Earl, editor of the *Massachusetts Spy*, which has been published for one hundred and thirty-one years, being, with one exception, the oldest paper in the United States; and it has been taken by the Hudson family ever since it was started.

In his township Joseph Hudson was a prominent man and served as selectman and in other offices. By his marriage to Rachel Eddy he had two sons, of whom Henry S. was the elder. The other son now conducts the old homestead, on which the father died at ninety-two years and the mother when ninety-one. The judge was reared on the homestead, but, as his father noticed he had little fondness for agriculture, a good education was given him. He prepared for college at Leicester Academy and later attended Amherst College, from which he graduated in 1849. In 1899 the class held a reunion, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation, and at that time a souvenir pamphlet was

published, giving a sketch of each member. He commenced the study of law at Worcester with Judges Barton and Bacon immediately after receiving his diploma. A few months later he went to Newton, N. J., where he was principal of an academy for eighteen months, pursuing his law studies at the same time. On his return to Worcester he was admitted to the bar in December, 1851. From that time until 1854 he was a member of the law firm of Matthews & Hudson. In the latter year he came to Chicago and began to practice law in partnership with Judge E. G. Hook, who was the first prosecuting attorney under the Milliken law. Later he was a partner of the famous Andrew Garrison. In 1862 he came to Oswego on legal business and found such a nice town that he decided to locate there for the summer. Selecting a suitable house he rented it for his family and came down from Chicago every two weeks to attend to his practice here. His increasing business caused him to open an office at Oswego, which was then the county seat. In 1865 he was elected county judge and removed to Yorkville, to which the county seat had just been removed. He has been elected nine consecutive terms of four years each. When it is considered that he is a man of independent ways, it shows that he has the confidence of the people to the highest degree. He has had more or less practice in circuit and supreme courts and has the reputation of having earned the largest fee ever paid in the county. In every respect and under all circumstances he has proved himself to be an impartial and learned jurist. In politics he is a Republican of Whig antecedents, and has served as delegate to dis-

strict and state conventions. Since the organization of the blue lodge in Yorkville he has been identified with the Masonic order. He was married, in Chicago, in 1857, to Hannah E., daughter of Rev. Moses Dayhoff, a native of Ohio. They have two children, Lizzie H. and Joseph E. The former is the wife of Joseph N. Wayne, of Oswego, and the latter has taken up mercantile pursuits.

It is a remarkable fact that since the organization of Kendall County, it has had but three county judges: Joseph W. Helme, who was elected in 1849; Benjamin Ricketson, who served from 1853 to 1865; and Henry S. Hudson, whose time of service has extended from 1865 to the present time. It is doubtful if any county, so long organized, could surpass such a record as this.

Personally Judge Hudson is a man of genial manner, dignified yet companionable, with the broad knowledge of the law that makes him a power in his town and county.

**S**ETH COVELL SLEEZER, who is a leading farmer of Kendall County, resides upon a valuable farm in Big Grove Township, comprising three hundred and thirty-five acres on sections 3, 4, 9 and 10. He is of German extraction. His great-grandfather, Martin Sleezer, was impressed into the army while at church one day, when he was seventeen years of age. He was brought to America to fight the colonies, but, being in sympathy with their struggles for liberty, deserted and joined Washington's army. After the war closed he settled in Providence, Saratoga County, N. Y. His wife, when a child of three years, was captured by the Indians, together with her mother and a younger sister. Both of the others were killed by the savages, but she was spared and was retained for several years, being finally brought back by the government. Of the three sons born to her marriage, Martin, George and Abraham, the second was our subject's grandfather.

Seth C., Sr., son of George Sleezer, and father of our subject, was a native of Providence,

N. Y., born December 31, 1820. When seven years of age he was left motherless. He was then taken into the home of his grandfather, who died six years later, thus leaving the boy a second time without a home. Afterward he worked among farmers and wherever he was offered an opportunity to make his livelihood. September 24, 1842, he married Eliza Ann Kellogg at Saratoga Springs, N. Y. In 1845 they left that place and came to Illinois, settling in Kendall County and renting a farm for nine years. In 1854 they moved to the property our subject now owns. Their first home was a one-story frame building, 16 x 20 feet in dimensions, and was built by the father during his leisure hours and of evenings. He gave his attention to farming and stock-raising, using all of his grain for feed. By various purchases he became the owner of three hundred and thirty-five acres, of which only sixty acres had been bought in the first purchase. In 1884 he retired from active labors, moved to Newark and bought a little farm of thirty-eight acres, which was his home until his death, September 28, 1896. For some years he voted with the Republican party, but finally transferred his allegiance to the Prohibition party, in which he was deeply interested. When eighteen years of age he united with the Baptist Church at Evans Mills, Jefferson County, N. Y. Later he transferred his membership by letter to Saratoga Springs, and thence to Newark, Ill., identifying himself with a congregation but recently organized. At that time the little band had no building of their own. He assisted in the erection of a house of worship, and for many years served as trustee and Sunday-school superintendent, also was one of the first deacons and held the office until he died. He was known as a benevolent, kindly man, liberal not only in support of his church, but also in various philanthropic measures. The infirmities of old age prevented him during his last days from retaining his activity in religious work, and he therefore resigned his official positions, but the congregation retained him as an officer in an honorary capacity until he died.

The eldest son of Seth C. Sleezer, Sr., was Flavius J., a young man of upright character



and great promise. At the opening of the Civil war he enlisted in the Union army, marched to the front with his regiment and remained in active service until he was killed in battle at Elizabethtown, Ky.

The second son, George, also gave his life in defense of his country, dying in Camp Butler, at Springfield, Ill., in the fall of 1864; Amanda, the third child, is the wife of Matthias Carter, of LaMar, Mo.; Martha married Charles Brimhall and died in Shaler, Iowa, in 1896, leaving two children, William and Lucy; Charles E. is a well-known farmer of Big Grove Township, and Ezra B., of Fox Township, Kendall County; Seth C., Jr., the subject of this sketch, was seventh in order of birth; William C. died at Newark in 1897, leaving a wife and two children, Clara and Nina; Frederick A. is a business man of Newark; Flavius J. (second) is a hardware merchant of Newark, whose sketch appears in this volume; Mary J. is the wife of Andrew Scofield, of Big Grove Township (see Scofield); and Lucy was born October 9, 1867, and died January 25, 1882.

On the old homestead he now occupies, Seth C. Sleezer, Jr., was born June 20, 1856. He was educated in common schools and Fowler's Institute, of Newark. On attaining his majority, in company with his brother Charles, he took charge of the home farm.

February 17, 1881, he married Arrissa Sergeant, daughter of Horton W. and Mary J. (Sleezer) Sergeant, of Belvidere, Ill. After his marriage he rented the George Nichols farm near Millbrook, Fox Township. Soon, however, he bought the old homestead and returned to his birthplace. Since then he has sold some of the land and bought other adjoining property, his object being to improve the shape of the farm. He has followed general farming and stock-raising. In politics he is independent. For some years he has been a director and trustee of schools.

On the tenth anniversary of their marriage Mr. Sleezer's first wife was buried in the Newark cemetery. She was born in New York, April 28, 1858, and died February 15, 1891. The only child born of their union, Frank W., was born

February 12, 1885, and is now a student in the Newark high school.

January 25, 1893, Mr. Sleezer married Clara H., daughter of George W. and Almira (Benton) Burlew, natives of New York. Mrs. Sleezer was fourth in a family of six daughters, and was six years of age when her father died in the army. She was born and reared in Tioga County, N.Y., and came to Illinois some time after her older sisters had settled here. The sisters taught school in Kendall and adjoining counties. After a time Mrs. Sleezer came with her mother to Newark, where she followed dressmaking, and then became postmistress of Newark, continuing in the office until her marriage. She is the mother of two children: Lucile B. and S. Covell Sleezer.

**F**RED GORDON PALMER. Foremost among the progressive, wide-awake and prosperous agriculturists of Kendall County stands Fred G. Palmer. For the past thirty-five years he has dwelt upon his finely improved homestead in Bristol Township, in a well-built two-story brick house, heated by the hot-water system and equipped with all modern conveniences and many of the luxuries of this time.

A grandson of Moses and a son of Gordon Palmer, our subject comes of an old and respected New York family. Gordon Palmer was born in Remsen, Oneida County, N. Y., September 16, 1811, and in his early manhood was engaged in teaming to Albany and New York City. In 1852 he came to Illinois by way of the great lakes and at first located in the town of Newark, Kendall County, where he conducted a meat market for two years. Then turning his attention to farming, and having become the owner of a homestead near Millbrook, he was actively occupied in the cultivation of the place until 1865, when he moved to Bristol Township, where his death occurred, May 18, 1873. He was broad-minded and liberal in all of his views, and was greatly interested in the establishment of good schools in his locality. From the organization of the Republican party he ardently supported its platform and nominees, and in religious matters favored



the Universalist doctrine. He chose for a wife Betsy E. Kelly, a native of the town of Edwards, N. Y., and their wedding took place March 5, 1843. Of their children, the eldest-born, Dr. I. F. Palmer, resides in Onarga, Ill.; Mrs. A. A. Young and Mrs. Harriet A. Nichols live in Bristol Township; Mrs. Lyman Austin is a citizen of New York state; Daniel is engaged in farming in Bristol Township; and Mrs. William Healy and Mrs. Arthur Healy live in Aurora.

Fred G. Palmer was born upon his parents' homestead in Fox Township, Kendall County, October 29, 1855. When he was seventeen years of age his father died and it became necessary for him to assume a share of the care of the farm. With his brother, Dan Palmer, he continued to operate the home place until 1887, when he bought out the other heirs, and has since conducted the farm independently. His father bought the farm in 1864 and occupied it the following year. The associations of three and a half decades render this locality very dear to Mr. Palmer, and though he may some day retire from the management of the farm he still prefers to remain here. In England he would be styled a "gentleman farmer," for he employs two men the year round and hires other laborers when unusual tasks are on hand. That he is a kind and just employer may be inferred from the fact that one of his assistants in the farm-work, who died in 1899, had been in his employ eighteen years—a record rarely equalled.

The farm, comprising two hundred and forty-two acres, is well adapted to the raising of live stock, and a stream of clear running water passing through the place is one of its chief recommendations. Mr. Palmer gives special attention to the dairy business and his cattle are of a high grade, chiefly Short-horns and Jerseys. By means of a separator the cream is removed from the milk and his butter finds a ready sale among some of the leading families in Chicago. Shropshire sheep and Poland-China swine are kept on this farm, and the owner is quite interested in the poultry business, as fifteen hundred eggs are set each year and large numbers of fowls are raised for the markets. In 1899 a stroke of ill fortune

came to Mr. Palmer, whose career hitherto had been remarkably prosperous. A fine barn, containing fifty-five tons of hay, three thousand bushels of grain and other products of the season, was destroyed by fire caused by lightning, the corn-cribs and adjacent buildings also falling a prey to the element. Mr. Palmer promptly rebuilt his barn and other farm buildings, and again is meeting with success in his enterprises.

On the 2nd of September, 1885, the marriage of Mr. Palmer and Miss Josie A. Ballard, of Alpena, Mich., was solemnized. He is not an aspirant to public positions, and, with one exception, has declined to fill offices. He acted as road-master for eight years, and for some time has been a stockholder in the Kendall County Fair Association. Politically he votes for the measures and men of the Republican party.

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**LEVI SHULTS.** Among the retired capitalists of Plano is numbered Levi Shults, whose family has been prominently associated with the early and later history of Kendall County. His tastefully furnished modern home is beautifully situated, being on east Main street, commanding a fine view of this region.

Josiah J., father of Levi Shults, was born in the state of New York, and in 1858 came to the west, taking up his abode in Little Rock, Kendall County. He purchased two hundred and forty acres of land from a Mr. Buck and at once proceeded to make improvements upon the place. The log cabin upon the farm was commonly known as a hotel in those days, and many a stranger or business man from a distance was entertained under its hospitable roof. A number of acres of the homestead had been broken for crops, but very few improvements, otherwise, had been made. At first the new owner raised wheat, chiefly, but later he was also successful in dealing in live-stock. At the end of the first decade he supplanted the old log "hotel" with a substantial frame building, and as the years passed he invested in adjacent farm lands. Finally he sold out and removed to another home-

stead, where he dwelt until 1878, and then, retiring, went to Plano and passed the rest of his life, some ten years, in this place. He had previously erected two store buildings here, and carefully looked after his possessions until shortly before his demise. At one time he possessed several lots in Chicago. Politically a Democrat, he was appointed as postmaster at Little Rock and served as such for a number of years to the satisfaction of all. He also served as a justice of the peace for a period. He was connected with the Lutheran Church. The first marriage of J. J. Shults took place in Montgomery County, N. Y., and the only child of that union, Jeremiah, is now deceased. By a second marriage Mr. Shults had two sons, Jefferson and Joel, the latter now operating the old homestead in Little Rock, Ill., and the former a farmer of Missouri. For a third wife the father chose Elizabeth Loucks, and their four children are named, respectively: Anna Margaret, now the wife of Hannibal Doty, of Aurora; Julia, deceased; Levi; and Amanda, wife of William Shults, of Aurora. The mother, now in her eighty-fifth year, is a resident of Aurora.

Levi Shults, born in Stone Arabia, Montgomery County, N. Y., February 21, 1853, was five years old when his family removed to the Prairie state, and when he was old enough he commenced attending the district schools. Later he pursued his studies in the Aurora Seminary for one winter. Reared to the duties of a farm, he gradually assumed more and more of the cares of the old homestead, and when his father decided to renounce all of his active responsibilities in the actual labor of the farm and retired to Plano, the young man stepped into his place. The farm, which is four and a-half miles from Plano, comprises two hundred and twenty-six acres, and, after he had made a good start in business, our subject invested his capital, from time to time, in real estate, chiefly in residences and business property in Plano. For a number of years he devoted his chief attention to the raising of wheat and corn and dealt extensively in live stock. In 1887 he rented his farm land and became a citizen of Plano, where he has since made his home.

Politically Mr. Shults is a Democrat, and frequently he has attended county conventions as a delegate. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. For a companion and helpmate in life's journey Mr. Shults chose Charlotte Gorton, daughter of Levi Gorton, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Three children blessed the marriage of our subject and wife, namely: Edwin J., a resident of Chicago; Lena B. and Albert Lester.

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JAMES MORRIS SEARS. For nearly three score and ten years the Sears family, to which the subject of this article belongs, have been intimately identified with the development of Kendall County. He was born March 2, 1838, in the same district where he now resides, Little Rock Township, and his entire life has been passed in this immediate locality.

The family is of English descent, and though they have been residents of America for many generations, it is not known exactly when they chose this land as a home. Major Thomas Sears, the great-grandfather of our subject, was a native of Massachusetts, and when the war of the Revolution broke out he was living in New York City. He participated in some of the campaigns of that conflict with the mother country, and won his title by gallant service. James Sears, the grandfather of James M., was born and reared in Connecticut, and later he was a farmer in New York state.

The father of the last-named, Archibald Sears, noted in the pioneer days of this county, was born February 23, 1802, in Putnam County, N. Y., and for his time possessed an exceptional education, as he was a successful teacher and a competent surveyor. For a period he was engaged in merchandising, and in 1836 started for the west, going by way of the canal and great lakes. After prospecting throughout this region he concluded that he could not find better land for farming purposes than that in Kendall County. He settled on section 13, and there built a log-



house. He located one section of land, situated on the banks of the Little Rock Creek, and in 1842, when there was a land sale, he bought the six hundred and forty acres. He made a specialty of raising wheat and swine, as better prices were realized on these products than on any other farm produce at that early day, and it was necessary to haul things to Chicago, as the railroad was not constructed until long afterwards. There being great demands for surveyors, Mr. Sears found plenty of employment as such, and laid out farms and roads and did general government surveying throughout this portion of the state. In this way he was enabled to pay for his large landed estates and to make necessary improvements. He was the first supervisor of this township after its organization, and continued to fill that office for several years. He also served as a justice of the peace and as county surveyor. In 1866 he retired from active life, and for twenty years dwelt in the town of Sandwich. His last years were spent in Plano, where his death occurred in November, 1893.

The first marriage of Archibald Sears took place in the Empire state in June, 1833, his choice being Miss Susan Hadden. She was a native of the same county as her husband, a daughter of Morris and Sarah (Nelson) Hadden, both natives of New York. Of their seven children, only the subject of this article survives. The wife died when this son was young, and on the 23d of August, 1850, the father married Mrs. Rachel Smith, daughter of David T. and Charlotte (Tarbox) Carver. Six children were born to this union, all of whom are living, namely. Charles M., Albert H. and Sherman S. Sears, Mary E. Henning, Alice M. Mather and Ada A. Miller.

James M. Sears attended the schools of this district in his youth, the old building standing upon the same site in the present town of Plano as the one now in its place. He was trained in the routine work of the homestead, and when he was about twenty-two years old started out upon his own account. At first he carried on a farm of one hundred and six acres, and when he was able to invest in cattle and hogs he commenced

raising and feeding them for the markets. He has been particularly successful in the live-stock business, and whenever he has realized from the sales he has invested a portion of the proceeds in land. He now owns about fifteen hundred acres of fine farm land situated in this township, besides some in Nebraska. In 1898 he removed to Plano on account of his wife's failing health, and in 1900 purchased two hundred and forty acres on the western border of the town, a portion being within the corporation limits.

Politically Mr. Sears is a true-blue Republican. He served as a supervisor here two years, and for twenty years officiated as a member of the local school board.

In 1874 Mr. Sears married Emily L. Cox, a daughter of John and Mary Cox, who came to this vicinity from New York state in 1844. Seven children blessed the union of our subject and wife, namely: Susan, who died in 1895; Delbert J., who is a student in a business college in Chicago; Archibald G., who died in 1898, while attending school in Chicago; Ora F., Bessie M., Louis A. and Ruth M. The devoted wife and mother was summoned to the silent land January 16, 1898, and her loss is deeply felt in the community and by the hosts of friends to whom she had endeared herself by many lovely traits of character revealed in her daily life.

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**J**ULIAN RUMSEY STEWARD, who is a member of the firm of Steward Brothers, bankers, owners of large landed estates and a multitude of paying investments, is one of the best known citizens of Plano and Kendall County, and doubtless inherited his marked talents as a financier and business man from his father, Lewis Steward, who is represented elsewhere in this volume.

Julian R. Steward was born in this county February 9, 1864. He obtained a liberal education in the public schools, and when a mere boy learned his first lessons in practical business affairs under the instruction of his father. Long before he reached his majority he had given proof



of his native ability, and when his senior was summoned to the silent land the son assumed many of the duties and responsibilities pertaining to his great possessions. He has acted in the capacity of an agent, his mother having been appointed an administrator of the estate. He has charge of the renting of forty-five hundred acres of fine farm-lands, the tenants on the thirty farms being carefully chosen and reliable. He also supervises the numerous other enterprises, including two manufacturing plants, four business blocks; the Plano Hotel, which is one of the finest, outside of Chicago, in the northern part of Illinois; saw-mills and grist-mills and about a score of residences. The water-power at Plano is controlled by the Steward estate, the town being supplied with water from a plant established by Lewis Steward and donated to the city, with a reservation for power from surplus water.

In September, 1897, J. R. Steward, in company with his younger brother, W. Deering Steward, embarked in the banking business, establishing the thriving Steward Brothers Bank, of Plano, and when E. L. Henning failed they purchased the bank fixtures, and in 1900, when his business block was sold, the firm became the owners of the same. In partnership with his three brothers our subject bought the Plano Electric Light Plant, of which he now is serving as president. He also is serving in the same capacity with the Plano Improvement & Manufacturing Company. He has reduced his entire business affairs to a fine system, for otherwise he could not attend to all of his varied enterprises.

Though, like his father before him, Mr. Steward is a staunch Democrat, he has not been desirous of public preferment, but frequently has been obliged to yield to the urgent demands of the people. In the spring of 1898 he was elected supervisor of this county, to his genuine surprise. His father had occupied the same office just thirty-five years before, but, as the Republicans in this county are in a majority of perhaps six to one and had elected their own candidates during this long period, he had consented to allow his name to be used as a figure-head on the Demo-

cratic ticket, not realizing to the full the weight of his name to a far-sighted, discriminating public. At the close of his term he declined the proposition to make him his own successor, although an indorsement was offered by the Republican party, as the demands of his business require his whole time and attention. However, during his service he succeeded in getting numerous reforms instituted and energetically carried out the people's wishes in several enterprises. He has acted as a member of the school board and is a director of the Plano Library Association. Socially he is a director in the Blackhawk Club, and belongs to the Merrimac Club also.

On the 6th of July, 1887, Mr. Steward married Miss Lillian Sibley, daughter of John Sibley, of Sandwich, Ill. They have one child, named, in honor of his maternal grandfather, John Sibley.

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**W**ILLIAM GRIMWOOD. Born in Buckshall, Suffolk, England, January 27, 1817, William Grimwood, a retired citizen of Bristol Township, Kendall County, is one of the venerable residents of this portion of Illinois. For nearly three score years he has made his home in this immediate locality, and during this long period he has done everything within his power to increase the prosperity which has gradually become the lot of our fortunate citizens.

Isaac Grimwood, father of our subject, resided in his native country, England, until 1824, when he sailed to America, and after a tedious journey of forty-two days arrived in New York City. He settled at Albany, and lived there for twelve years, when, yielding to the pioneer spirit which had possession of him, he came to Illinois and took up forty acres of land in Bristol Township, Kendall County. His wife, whose maiden name had been Susan Cooper, and who likewise was a native of England, died in 1841. The father was summoned to the home above in 1852, and of the twelve children of this sterling couple only two survive, William and a sister. The father was a member of the Baptist Church, and in politics was a Whig.

The youth of William Grimwood was passed in Albany, where he obtained a good education for that day. In 1843 he came west to make a visit to his parents, who had located here, and, liking the country, the young man concluded to remain. He took up eighty acres of government land and later bought other property. Two years later he built a house on section 20—the same one in which he has dwelt ever since, and the lime used in its construction he was obliged to haul thirty-six miles. For the wheat which he produced he found the best market in Chicago, but on one occasion his experience was very discouraging and severe. He was overtaken by a driving snow-storm and his hands were frozen. The trip consumed nine days, on account of the weather, and because of his expenses, while necessarily storm-stayed, he found himself \$5 in debt, and only had a jug of molasses to show for his long journey. He devoted his time for many years chiefly to the raising of grain, though he also found hay a profitable crop. By industry and well-applied efforts he made a good income and gave his children many advantages. Fifty-one years ago he brought from across the river some white-willow shoots and planted them around his house, and two of them are still standing. The place is also embellished abundantly with maple and other trees planted by his hand.

The marriage of Mr. Grimwood and Seraph Salisbury, a native of Berkshire County, Mass., was celebrated in 1846. William H., their eldest child, is engaged in farming near Huntsville, Ala. Isaac O. is carrying on the old homestead formerly belonging to his father, and Joseph C. also is a farmer of this township. Newton S., an enterprising, promising young journalist, twenty-two years old, accompanied Prof. Donel-

son on a balloon trip, but the balloon collapsed and both were drowned. The body of the professor never was recovered, but the remains of the unfortunate young man were found. Lizzie, the only daughter, has entered the silent land, and the mother died in 1878.

Since the organization of the Republican party William Grimwood has been a staunch supporter of the same, and in this district he has served as a supervisor, school treasurer and school trustee. In the Baptist denomination he has been an important member, aiding materially in its work and assisting in the building of the present church edifice. For the past few years he has acted in the office of deacon of his church and is looked up to and held in reverence by all who know him.

Isaac O. Grimwood, who now has the responsibility of the home farm, was born March 22, 1849, beneath the hospitable roof which now shelters his family. He spent seven years in Kankakee County, engaged in agriculture, but with this exception has passed his entire life here. He rented the place until 1882, when he purchased the farm, comprising two hundred and forty acres. He makes a specialty of raising live stock and grain, and by aid of a separator machine he removes the cream from the milk, and finds a ready market for the product in Bristol. He keeps from fifteen to twenty cows, chiefly Jerseys. For the past eight years Mr. Grimwood has been road commissioner. He is a Republican and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. January 18, 1882, he wedded Alice Grice, and to them were born: Ada, Sidney, Harlan and Philip (twins), Ralph and Maurice. Philip died at the age of fourteen months and Ralph was killed in an accident.







*Allen P. Cayser*



*Mrs Ellen Carpenter -*





## ALLEN P. CARPENTER.

ALLEN P. CARPENTER. Few of the residents of the county stand higher, and none has warmer friends, than the subject of this sketch, a retired farmer of Channahon Township. In his active life he has gained the confidence and esteem always awarded integrity, honor and industry. From his youth he has been identified with the county's history. In October, 1853, he came to Joliet. A short time later he was employed to teach a four months' term of school in this city. He at once entered upon his duties. His position was one of great responsibility, requiring patience, intelligence and constant watchfulness. On his roll he had the names of one hundred and three pupils. At the expiration of his term the school board urged him to remain longer, but he had promised his father to return home and assist in the work during the spring and summer, so in March he went back east. However, in the fall he returned to Joliet, where he again taught school. In the spring of the next year he began to cultivate the farm in Channahon Township now owned by H. B. Porter, remaining there for three years. Later he spent two years in Troy Township. Following this he was associated for seven years with his brother, Henry S. Carpenter, in the grain and elevator business at Minooka Landing. In 1865 he purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixteen acres two miles north of the village of Channahon and the next year he removed to his new home. In conjunction with cultivating his land, for eight years he carried on a general merchandise, lumber and coal business. In 1875 he withdrew from the latter business and retired to his farm. From time to time he added to his

possessions until he had large landed tracts, but, having lost both of his children, and his wife dying in 1890, he had no longer the same reason as before for desiring large possessions, and he afterward sold all but his original one hundred and sixteen acres. In 1895, after the erection of the creamery at Channahon, he was made its manager, and during the three years that he held the position, the business netted about twenty-seven per cent dividends, a proud record which has never been equaled in the history of the Channahon Creamery.

In Orleans County, N. Y., Mr. Carpenter was born January 27, 1834, a son of Daniel and Paulina (Smith) Carpenter. He and his sister, Lucinda, the widow of Dr. Gersham Randall, of Linn, Kans., are the only survivors of the family, which originally comprised six children. His father, who was born at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., in 1796, grew to manhood there, and received a common-school education. February 25, 1819, he married Miss Smith. About 1824 he removed to the western part of the state, settling in Orleans County, where he engaged in farming. His wife died in 1837. Later he married Miss Fannie Styles, by whom he had five children, two now living: Wilber H., of Joliet, and Frances, wife of William Harmon. The father was a progressive farmer and acquired a competency through his tireless efforts. In early life he was a Whig. On the organization of the Republican party he affiliated himself with it. He did not care for office, and refused all but minor positions. In the Methodist Church he served as a trustee. His death occurred August 2, 1870.

When nineteen years of age our subject left

home and came to Joliet, arriving here, as before stated, in October, 1853. The now prosperous city was then an insignificant village, but he discerned its possibilities and also saw the opportunity of making a good investment by the purchase of farm land in the county. Subsequent events justified the wisdom of his course. January 10, 1855, he married Miss Ellen Spencer, who was born in Chicago December 21, 1834. They became the parents of two children: Alice Evelyn, who was born on Christmas day of 1865 and died August 1, 1866; and Allen Elmer, who was born April 28, 1869, and died July 24, 1870. Mrs. Carpenter passed away October 20, 1890. She was an active worker in the Methodist Church and a woman beloved by all for her gentle, amiable character and kind heart. Mr. Carpenter has been a trustee of the Methodist Church for the past twenty-five years and for some time has been a steward. Politically he is a firm Republican. From 1893 to 1897 he served as supervisor of Channahon Township. For twelve years he held the office of town treasurer and for nine years was highway commissioner. For a quarter of a century he was a member of the Republican central committee. He has also frequently been a delegate to county and state conventions.

**H**ENRY S. CARPENTER, who was long a business man of Joliet, was born November 23, 1825, and died March 5, 1892. He received his education in Albion Academy. In 1848 he came to Joliet, with the subsequent history of which he was identified. For a number of years he taught in the city schools, but by degrees he drifted into the real-estate business, buying and selling town lots and also dealing in farm property. In addition he had large grain interests, in connection with his brother, Allen P., the two being among the most extensive grain merchants of this section of the country. He bought in carload lots and exported to all parts of the world.

In 1851 Mr. Carpenter married Miss Henrietta Spencer, a sister of Mrs. Allen P. Carpenter. They became the parents of three children. The only living son, Charles C., who was connected with his father in the grain business, is now business manager of a piano factory at Ottawa, Ill., and a bicycle factory at Joliet. The second son, George H., is deceased. The only daughter, Sarah F., is the wife of William Grinton, a merchant in Joliet, and with her Mrs. Carpenter makes her home.

**S**TEPHEN J. WILLIAMS. In the management of his dairy and farm interests Mr. Williams has displayed energy and wise judgment. From early manhood he has been one of the important factors in the promotion of local enterprises and agricultural improvements in Dupage Township, and as a progressive farmer of high integrity, has won the confidence and regard of his large circle of acquaintances. The land which he owns lies on sections 33 and 34. Here he was born September 22, 1846, and here much of his life has been passed. In the stock business his specialty is the raising of cattle and Norman horses. He buys heavily in the Chicago markets and often sells again without taking the stock out of the yards. He has a large number of milch cows and ships from seventy to eighty gallons of milk to Chicago daily, finding in the dairy business a profitable source of revenue.

Thomas Williams, our subject's father, was born and educated in Cornwall, England, where he learned the contract business with his father, an able and well-known contractor in Cornwall. In early manhood he engaged in the flax-seed business, shipping from England to America. In 1852 he came to this country and carried on a coal business in Pittsburg, Pa. Upon the starting of the canal in Illinois he sold his coal business and took a contract to build a part of the canal in Will County, a part of sections 23 and 24, extending through Romeo. In 1850 he went to California and built a levee in San Francisco,



which work consumed almost three years. His next contract was for building fifteen miles of the Great Western Railroad in Illinois. Upon the completion of his canal contract he had purchased forty acres where our subject now lives, and his family resided here while he was in different parts of the country filling contracts, adding to the home farm from time to time. On finishing his railroad work he returned to this place and gave his attention to its improvement. He was nominated in 1880 for the legislature by the Democratic party, but before the election was stricken with paralysis and died, August 25, the same year. He was then seventy-two years of age. In religion he was identified with the Church of England. Fraternally he was connected with the Masons. By his marriage to Susan Homer, who died November 23, 1898, he had nine children, of whom all are deceased but Mrs. Susan G. Haney, of Chicago, and Stephen J., of this sketch.

In the academy at Naperville and the college at Wheaton our subject received excellent educational advantages. His first work was the management of a coal mine owned by his father at Gardner, where he remained for three years. He then went to Lockport Township and took charge of a farm on sections 31 and 32, which he conducted for sixteen years. He still owns the farm, comprising three hundred and twenty acres. He returned to the old homestead at the death of his father. On this place he has since made his home. Mr. Williams has been one of the most successful farmers and stockmen during the last decade in Will County. His methods of farming are the most advanced and his judgment in regard to buying and selling stock has made him well known in the Chicago market. His home farm now comprises over one thousand acres of choice land, the equal of which it would be hard to find in northern Illinois. A Democrat in national affairs, he is independent in local matters, voting for the men he considers best qualified to represent the people. He has been a delegate to township and county conventions and to many of the state and national gatherings of the Democratic party. Upon the death of his father he succeeded

him in the office of supervisor, which he held for thirteen years. At one time he was nominated for the legislature, but the district being strongly Republican he was defeated. He is warmly interested in all that concerns his immediate locality, especially in educational matters, and his influence for years in the office of school director has been exerted in behalf of the schools.

While in Gardner Mr. Williams married Mary E. Burns, who died January 2, 1876, at the age of twenty-seven and one-half years. This union was blessed by three children: Thomas, who is in Albuquerque, N. M.; James, who cultivates the home farm for his father; and Maude, who married Isaac Sims, a merchant in Lockport. Two years after the death of his first wife Mr. Williams married her sister, Katie Burns, by whom he has three children, Mary E., Jennette B. and Stephen J. Jr.

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**EVI WHIPPLE**, member of the firm of Whipple & Barr, grain merchants of Plainfield, was born near Morris, Grundy County, Ill., March 7, 1846. His father, William Whipple, a native of Watertown, Jefferson County, N. Y., born in November, 1808, spent the first fourteen years of his life there and then went to Detroit, Mich. For six years he worked as a clerk in that city. Coming from there to Illinois he engaged in the grocery business in Marseilles, also sold groceries through the surrounding country with team and wagon. He then settled in Grundy County, renting a farm near Morris, but after two years bought another farm near by, and on the latter place he made his home for thirty years. From there he moved to Buffalo, Ind. His last days were spent in Ford County, Ill., where he died at eighty-seven years. In politics he was first a Whig and later a Republican. While he never had any educational advantages he became a well-informed man and kept posted concerning current events of importance. He was a member of a pioneer family



of New England that traced its ancestry to Germany. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Basheba Gibson, was born in Vermont and died in Illinois in 1862, when forty-five years of age. She was a woman of exemplary character and sincere Christian faith. She left four children, of whom Levi was second in order of birth.

Until twenty-five years of age our subject remained at home assisting his father in the cultivation of the farm. At the time of his marriage he settled on one of his father's farms, which he later purchased, making it his home until 1882. He then rented the property and moved to Morris, Ill., where he carried on a livery business for two years. Afterward he became interested in the lumber business. In 1890 he came to Plainfield and formed a partnership with C. V. Barr, renting an elevator at Plainfield and one at Caton Farm. The latter burned down in 1892, but was immediately rebuilt by the proprietors. Later they bought the elevator at Plainfield and have since operated both, Mr. Whipple managing that at Caton Farm, while Mr. Barr has charge of the one at Plainfield. The Caton Farm elevator has a capacity of between seventy-five and eighty thousand bushels, it being one of the largest elevators in the county.

By the marriage of Mr. Whipple to Miss Harriet A. Stone three children were born, Winifred, Lester H. and Chester L. In his political views M. Whipple is a Republican and takes an active part in assisting those of his friends who are candidates for office, but has never sought political positions for himself. He was a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Plainfield and is still connected with it. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In the forwarding of worthy enterprises he has taken an interest, contributing to the same as able, and he has for years assisted in the maintenance of the Congregational Church with which his wife is identified.

As a substantial business man no one stands higher in his community than Mr. Whipple. He has great capacity for business, and the success of his enterprises comes from his energetic management of the same. Having given much time

and thought to the grain business he is familiar with all its details, and manages his elevator in such a way as to reap the greatest possible results therefrom. He is very progressive and public-spirited, and is always in favor of movements that are likely to benefit his locality, though the demands upon his time made by his business interests prevent him from actively identifying himself with public affairs.

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LAWRENCE DITTRICH, who for years before his death was one of the enterprising farmers and business men of this county, was born in Buckenhofen, Bavaria, Germany, January 20, 1844. He received his education in schools in his native country, and from an early age was familiar with agricultural pursuits. At the age of twenty-six years he came to the United States, landing in Baltimore, and proceeding from there to Chicago. After a short stay in the latter city he came to the vicinity of Mokena, where he secured work on a farm. In 1873 he married and moved to Joliet, where he obtained work in the rolling mill. During the ten years he was employed in the mill he proved himself to be a very competent and efficient workman, and from small wages was advanced until he made as much as \$160 per month.

During 1883 Mr. Dittrich bought an unimproved tract of eighty acres of land at what was then called Grinton. Settling upon the place, he at once began its development. He cleared the land of stumps and placed it in condition for cultivation. At a later date he bought fifty-two acres to the south, which he also brought under cultivation, and devoted to general farm products. In the raising of horses and cattle he also took considerable interest. While he gave his attention closely to his farm work he did not neglect his duties as a citizen, but kept in touch with local matters. For a number of years he served as road overseer and later was elected highway commissioner. His political belief was in accord with

Democratic principles. In religion he was connected with St. John's Roman Catholic Church.

The marriage of Mr. Dittrich, October 22, 1873, united him with Mrs. Susanna Brown, who was born in Westbach, Rheinpfaltz, Bavaria, Germany, a daughter of Henry Schneider. She was reared in her native land, and after her marriage to Mr. Brown came to the United States. By her first marriage she had two children, but both are now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Dittrich were born eight children, five of whom are living, namely: Helena, wife of Henry Christman, of Joliet; Henry, who has charge of the home farm on section 10, Troy Township; Lawrence, Susanna and Annie. Mrs. Dittrich was reared in the Lutheran faith, and is connected with that denomination in Joliet. Since the death of her husband, August 7, 1892, she has had the oversight of the homestead and the general management of the estate, and has proved herself to be a woman possessing decided business ability.

**N**OAH WHITLEY, county surveyor, was born in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England, August 10, 1852, a son of Robert and Sarah (Lorryman) Whitley, natives of the same town. His grandfather, John Whitley, descended from a family who, as far back as the sixteenth century, resided near Whitley bridge, in Yorkshire, and by whom the family name was variously spelled Whitily, Whytely, Whitley, etc. Whitley Castle, in Northumberlandshire, was probably owned by a branch of the family, and is quoted by historians of the Roman period. Robert, who was a miller by trade, came to America in 1853 and settled at Plainfield, Will County, Ill., where the family joined him two years later. For a time he was employed in a mill at Oswego, Kendall County, but in 1864 returned to Plainfield, where he resumed milling. In 1866 he embarked in the milling business at Lockport, Ill., where he has since been foreman for a company. By his marriage to a daughter of Nathan Lorryman, of an

old Yorkshire family, he had seven children, of whom Noah and Robert, Jr., of Lockport, and two daughters survive, our subject being the eldest of the family. He was three years of age at the time his mother brought him to the United States, joining his father in Will County. Subsequently the family went to Kendall County, but returned to Plainfield in 1864, and in 1866 settled in Lockport, where he completed the high school course. He then took up civil engineering and surveying and attended a private school in Chicago.

The first engineering done by Mr. Whitley was in 1872, when he was employed on the Pittsburg & Fort Wayne Railroad in Ohio. Two years later he came to Joliet, where he assisted the county surveyor, A. J. Mathewson, in his surveys. In 1877 he went to California, where he engaged in surveying. He was also assistant superintendent of a large fishing company, and, being in and about the water much of the time, he contracted rheumatism in his arms. Hoping a change of climate might enable him to get rid of the disease, he went to the Society Islands, twenty-five hundred miles south of the Sandwich Islands, in the Pacific, and spent almost a year in that region of the world, being for a few months on the island of Tahiti, whose inhabitants were mostly natives, with a very few Americans, Germans and Scotchmen. The trip proved successful in permanently relieving him of the disease.

Returning to Joliet in 1883, Mr. Whitley has since engaged in work as a civil engineer. From 1885 to 1888 he served as city engineer. To fill a vacancy the board of supervisors appointed him county supervisor in 1895. The following year he was regularly elected to the office of county surveyor and civil engineer for a term of four years. He has had almost all the work connected with the laying out of additions and subdividing of property, and his work has always proved reliable and trustworthy. In 1892, as a member of the sanitary survey, he located section and half-section corners in Will County for the sanitary district. In 1897 and 1898 he had charge of the party locating land corners through



the city of Joliet for the sanitary district, and was called upon to give testimony in the condemnation cases that came up for settlement. He is a member of the Western Society of Engineers. In national politics he is a Republican. During 1887, within six months, he made two trips to England and Scotland, where he visited relatives and acquaintances of the family. He was married in Joliet to Miss Jane E. Clark, who was born in Scotland, and died in that country, leaving a daughter, Sarah Barbara.

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**A**NDREW J. HOWK. Although it was not until a comparatively recent period that Mr. Howk settled permanently in Joliet, yet he has been familiar with the place from early manhood and no one has taken a greater interest in its progress than has he. The family of which he is a member has been represented in America for many generations. He was born in Watertown, N. Y., December 15, 1831, and was a son of Henderson Howk, a miller of Watertown. When the family came to Illinois in 1851 his father built the mills in Joliet that occupied the present site of the plant of the Economy Light and Power Company. One of his first contracts in the west was in connection with Governor Matteson for the building of the Rock Island Railroad from Joliet to Blue Island, after which he carried on the mills in partnership with George W. Hyde. His last years were spent in retirement from business and he died in this city in 1889. During his residence in New York he took an active interest in political matters and served honorably as a member of the state legislature. Though not a member of any denomination he was liberal in his gifts to all, and more than one church has reason to be grateful to him for generous assistance at a time when it was sorely needed. By his marriage to Emily, daughter of L. Nathan Matteson and a sister of Hon. Joel A. Matteson, he had five children, of whom the oldest, Andrew J., and a younger

brother, F. M., a justice of the peace in Joliet, are the only survivors. John and Augustus were both in business in this city until their death.

When about twenty years of age our subject accompanied his parents to the west. He entered the store of his uncle, Governor Matteson, in Joliet, and remained with him until 1853, when he went to California and embarked in prospecting and mining. From that time to this he has had important mining interests. His success at the start was such as to induce him to devote his life to the occupation. When the placer mines became exhausted he turned his attention to quartz mining. He located a mine, "May Lundy," on the summit of the Sierra Nevada range, eleven thousand feet above sea level, it being one of the highest productive mines now in operation on the continent. It was opened in 1881 and he operated it personally for some years. He has also had valuable interests in Nevada. In 1863 he went to that territory, where he carried on silver mining profitably until 1876; but owing to the decline in silver he discontinued the work in the latter year. Of recent years he has again turned his attention to mining in Nevada, but mines for gold and copper and not for silver. While he has not wholly given up his interests in California he has no active connection with mines there now, but works in Nevada instead. In 1885 he settled permanently in Joliet in order that his son might have the advantage of study in the city schools. Usually he spends a portion of each summer in Nevada attending to his interests there. Politically he is an ardent supporter of the silver wing of the Republican party. In religion he is a member of the Presbyterian Church. While in California he married Miss Margie Kirkpatrick, by whom he has one son now living, Henderson J. Howk.

Often noting the prosperity of Joliet and the variety of its industries Mr. Howk recalls the days when he first came here and enjoys dwelling upon the contrasts between a half century ago and now. Shortly after he came here he built a part of the first brick building erected in the town, putting up a portion of the brick block just north of the National Hotel. It was his



plan to start in business in that block, but his health was poor and his physician ordered him to leave. It was in this way that he decided to go to California. From 1889 to 1896 he was a member of the firm of Kirkpatrick, Howk & Massey, who engaged in quarrying just outside of the city limits on South Chicago street.

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JOHN AGNEW, deceased, was one of the finest machinists ever in Joliet. He was born in Wicktonshire, Scotland, March 11, 1843, and in early manhood removed to Glasgow, where he worked as a machinist, meantime gaining a thorough knowledge of the trade. Believing he would be better able to succeed in America he crossed the ocean in 1871 and settled in Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked in the rolling mills. From there, in 1880, he removed to Chicago, and there was selected to be foreman of a large machine shop, for which work his previous experience as foreman in Cleveland admirably qualified him. He continued in Chicago until 1889, when he went to Anderson, Ind., and had charge of the building of the rod mills in that place. The year 1890 found him in Joliet, where he erected the Enterprise mills for Fish Brothers. Later, as master mechanic, he had charge of the Illinois machine shops of the Illinois steel works. In every city where he resided he was recognized as an expert machinist. His work was reliable and trustworthy, and no employer ever spoke of him except in terms of highest praise. He continued to hold a very responsible position in the steel works until his death, which occurred in Joliet February 2, 1893. To his family he left a comfortable home and the memory of an upright Christian life.

After coming to the United States Mr. Agnew took a warm interest in public affairs in his adopted country. He affiliated with the Republican party and upheld its principles. During his residence in Anderson, Ind., he was a member of the common council. The nature of his work,

however, was such as to prevent his acceptance of most local offices, for he had not sufficient time to give to them. In the Knights of Pythias he held office as grand chancellor and was connected with the Uniform Rank. He also served as high chief ranger in the local camp of Foresters. In both of these orders he stood high and took an active part.

Before leaving Scotland Mr. Agnew lost his first wife, who left a son, William, now connected with the postal department in Cleveland. After coming to America he was a second time married, choosing as his wife Miss Jane Dewar, whom he married in Cleveland February 22, 1872. Mrs. Agnew was born and reared in Scotland and in 1870 accompanied her uncle to the United States, settling in Cleveland. She was reared in the Episcopalian faith and early identified herself with that church, which Mr. Agnew also attended, though not a member. They became the parents of seven children, one of whom died at four years of age, and six are now living, viz.: Jessie, wife of George Russell, of Anderson, Ind.; Samuel H., a machinist in Joliet; Anna F. and John, both of whom are employed as clerks in this city; James and Jean, who are still at home.

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ELISHA C. FELLOWS. In the early period of Will County's history there was no attorney so prominent and influential as Mr. Fellows, who was long the Nestor of the bar in Joliet and one of the leading criminal lawyers of Illinois. Born and reared in Brockport, N.Y., the son of wealthy parents, he was given in youth every advantage which ample means could provide, and was educated in law under the tutorship of successful attorneys in the east. During the year 1836 he came to Joliet, which was then a frontier town in the midst of the wilderness, with few indications of its future prosperity and population. Largely through his efforts the first charter was secured for the city. In many ways he promoted the growth of the town and the enlarge-

ment of its interests. No movement was started of a public-spirited nature that failed to receive his co-operation.

As the passing of the years brought a constant prosperity to Joliet, they also brought to Mr. Fellows an ever-increasing reputation in his chosen profession. His name was connected with the most important cases in the courts of Will County, and as a criminal lawyer he was recognized as unequaled and without a rival. Frequently he was called into other counties of the state in connection with important cases. He was a tireless worker in the interests of his clients. Every authority was looked up, every research was made and every clue investigated that would aid him in his professional work. His life was in his work, and it might almost be said that his profession was his life, so closely were the two interwoven.

After a useful and honorable career, Mr. Fellows retired from his activities. For some years before his death he was an invalid. September 5, 1875, his step-son, George Leonard, who had been his partner in law, and was a young man greatly beloved by all, passed away from earth at the going down of the sun. His own health was very poor at the time, and the following year, August 1, he died at the rising of the sun. During his three years' illness he had been tenderly cared for, not only by his wife and daughter, but also by his adopted son, Frank Fellows (a son of Mrs. Fellows by her first marriage). This son was his constant attendant throughout his illness, and Mr. Fellows showed his affection for him by bequeathing him an equal share of his property with his daughter.

At a meeting of the Will County Bar Association, October 2, 1876, the following resolutions were passed:

"WHEREAS, The death of E. C. Fellows is to the bar a sad occasion and of no ordinary character, and he has given his whole life to practice within its precincts, be it

"*Resolved*, That we remember with emotion his power as a practitioner, his fervid eloquence, his marked fidelity to his clients, and, as an associate, his genial social qualities; and

"*Resolved*, That these resolutions be made a matter of record in the court and the clerk be instructed to forward a copy to the bereaved family of the deceased."

During a portion of his life Mr. Fellows was an exhorter in the Methodist Church, and he died in the Christian faith, with the hope of a resurrection to life eternal. In early life he affiliated with the Democrats of the old school, but during Civil-war times he supported Abraham Lincoln, and afterward he was independent in politics. He was a man of straightforward honesty, and would tolerate no wrong methods, though they might offer tempting professional allurements. His knowledge of criminal law was excelled by no attorney of his locality and day, and by his high professional attainments he added to the influence of his home town.

Mr. Fellows married Miss Frances D. Gates, a grand-daughter of Gen. Horatio Gates, the famous Revolutionary hero, and also a relative of Generals Schuyler and Van Rensselaer, who gained renown in the struggle with England. In later days other relatives of Mrs. Fellows have gained fame. Her cousin, Major Anderson, was the one who held Fort Sumter until approaching starvation forced a surrender. Her parents were Seth and Mary (Anderson) Gates; the latter, who was a daughter of a Scotch nobleman, was reared under strict Presbyterian influences, and was a woman of marked ability, gentle in disposition and kind to all. At the time of her death she was ninety-five years of age. Seth Gates was born and reared in Rutland, Vt., but in early manhood removed to Bradford County, Pa., taking with him \$1,000 in gold, which was considered a fortune in those days. He purchased a tract of timbered land and hewed a farm from the wilderness, in which wolves and other wild animals made the night hideous with their cries. At the time the family removed to the new home Mrs. Fellows was nine months old; consequently she retains no recollection of her native county. She was one of twelve children, namely: Rufus R., Luther, Schuyler, Herrick, Van Rensselaer, Horatio, William, Aurilla, Demorest, Frances Diantha, Almira and Sarah. Rufus R. Gates



became a prominent evangelist in the Seventh-Day Advent Church, and made his home in Philadelphia. Of the family, Schuyler, Herrick, Horatio and Mrs. Fellows are still living. The only child of Mr. and Mrs. Fellows, Addah, was born in Joliet, and married Lomando Pierce, by whom she had two children, Frank Fellows Pierce and Florence Gates Pierce. Mrs. Fellows and Mrs. Pierce are members of Christ Episcopal Church in Joliet, having been confirmed by Bishop McLaren in Lockport.

**D**ANIEL F. HIGGINS is well known, both through his successful practice as an attorney, and through his active, efficient service as vice-president of the board of school directors of Joliet. For the past twenty years he has been intimately associated with educational work; probably his most helpful service as a citizen has been in connection with the city schools. Since 1896 he has held office as the board's vice-president. He is a member of the township high school board, and is entitled to the credit of originating the plan and assisting to carry forward to a successful completion the building of the township high school. The decision to erect this building was made in December, 1899. Since then the work has been carried rapidly and systematically toward completion. The building stands on the corner of Jefferson and Eastern avenues and is, without exception, the finest township high school building in the entire state; a result the credit of which should be given the men whose names are indissolubly associated with the enterprise.

The Higgins family was established in New England in an early day. Samuel, the earliest member of whom any definite knowledge is had, served in the Revolutionary war. Prior to 1781 he resided in Killingworth, Conn., but in that year moved to Castleton, Vt. He was twice married, and by his second wife, Temperance Kilsey, had eight children. The second of these

children was Dan, who was born in Castleton, Vt., August 27, 1784. By occupation he was a farmer. In 1806 he married Hannah LeBarron, by whom he had eleven children, Chauncey, the fourth, having been born in Rutland County, Vt. He was reared on the home farm, and during the summer assisted in its cultivation, while in the winter he attended school. However, his education, which was good, was acquired mostly by his own efforts. When about of age he took up agricultural work in Vermont. In 1835 he came via the lakes to Chicago, thence by the old trail to Dupage Township, this county, where he took up one hundred and sixty acres of government land. He raised produce which he shipped to Chicago, and he also raised stock. At the time of the anti-slavery agitation he was pronounced in his Abolition views. He aided the work of the underground railroad. Though active in local affairs, he would never accept office. He was instrumental in moulding the principles of the Republican party in his neighborhood. For many years he was a leader in politics. Personally he was a man of indomitable will and energy, and one of the best business men in his township. He helped to build the first church in Naperville, and for years was a deacon in the Baptist Church near his home. October 23, 1844, in Dupage Township, he married Emily Root, who was born in Benson, Vt., March 18, 1812. They became the parents of five children, namely: Emily Frances and James Chauncey, both deceased; Daniel F.; Olney F., who is managing the old homestead; and Charles Sumner, deceased. The father died in February, 1892.

The subject of this article was educated in public schools and in Northwestern College, which was then in Plainfield. When fifteen years old he enlisted in Company C, One Hundredth Illinois Infantry, and went with his regiment to East Tennessee. On the 1st of July, 1865, he was transferred to the Fifty-first Illinois Veterans' Corps, which served in Texas until October, 1865. He was then honorably discharged from the army. Returning home he was for two years principal of the school at Downer's Grove. In 1874 he began to read law



with Judge Cody, one of the leading attorneys of northeastern Illinois. He was admitted to the bar in Joliet in 1877, and has since engaged in practice here. About the time of his election as county attorney (1884) he formed a law partnership with E. C. Akin, now attorney-general, and they were together until the latter's removal to Springfield in 1896. Since then Mr. Higgins has been associated with Fred W. Walter. He is a strong Republican, and has been chairman of the county central committee, and a member of the city council. He is a great admirer of William McKinley, and an active campaigner, and has been offered several appointments, which he has declined on account of his private work as a lawyer. His influence has been given to movements of a worthy character, and he has been one of the most progressive citizens Joliet has ever had. His entire life has been passed in this county. He was born in Dupage Township and grew to manhood in the midst of the changing scenes of farm life here, witnessing the development of farms and the growth of towns. In Joliet he has done a considerable amount of building, mostly residences. He was united in marriage May 4, 1881, with Mary Brown, of Jackson, Will County. They are the parents of six sons and two daughters, namely: D. Frank, Jr.; Charles Chauncey, Helen J., Marshall F., Max Brown, Mary Marguerite, Ara Brown and Alfred N.

continued to make his home until he died, at the age of about eighty years. Some years after his marriage, Edson Gifford brought his wife and two children to Illinois, making the trip by the lakes and settling in Grundy County on the Kendall County line. There, out of the raw prairie, he improved a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres. After a few years he settled in Lisbon, Kendall County, where he engaged in the mercantile business. In 1866 he settled in Morris, Grundy County, where he was proprietor of a store. The year 1872 found him settled in Elwood, Will County, where he engaged in merchandising. His death occurred in this village in 1894, when he was seventy-four years of age. His wife died during the early days of their residence in Grundy County. Of their three children, a son and daughter are living. He was a second time married, and by that union there are two sons now living, one being a business man in Elwood.

The subject of this sketch was born March 4, 1844, and was a child of four years when his parents came to Illinois. His education was acquired principally in Lisbon, Kendall County, and Lisbon Academy. July 15, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, which was mustered in at Aurora and sent to Missouri. After the battle of Pea Ridge the company was ordered to Mississippi and took part in the siege of Corinth, later was sent in pursuit of General Bragg, and took an active part in the battles of Perryville and Stone River. During the latter engagement he was captured, but was soon paroled and sent to Columbus, Ohio, where he remained until his exchange in May, 1863. He joined his regiment at Murfreesboro, immediately before the campaign against Chattanooga, and took part in the battle Chickamauga, where he was shot in the leg. The Union army retreated to Chattanooga and he was left on the field, within the rebel lines for seven days, after which he was taken into a Confederate hospital and his leg was amputated by a Federal surgeon. Four days later he was taken in an ambulance to the Union lines at Chattanooga and was exchanged and taken to a Union hos-

**W**ILLARD W. GIFFORD, county treasurer, is a veteran of the Civil war, in which he served with a valor and fidelity that entitle him to the lasting gratitude of all who love their country. He was born near Mayville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., a son of Edson and Lydia (Whipple) Gifford, also natives of that state, and descendants of New England pioneers. His grandfather, William Gifford, who was of remote Welsh descent, brought his family from Massachusetts to New York, and cleared a farm from the woods of Chautauqua County, where he

pital, where he remained for some time. In the latter part of October, 1863, he was honorably discharged on account of physical disability, and returned to his home, but it was a year before he had recovered sufficiently to engage in any business.

After a year in an academy Mr. Gifford was appointed postmaster under President Lincoln, which office he held until 1872, meantime also engaging in the mercantile business. On resigning his office he removed to Elwood and became a member of the firm of E. Gifford & Son, proprietors of a general mercantile store. Later the firm became Gifford & Co., a brother and son being admitted as partners. Under Presidents Garfield and Arthur he also served as postmaster at Elwood. During much of this time he was a member of and president of the board of the village trustees. Several time he has been a member of the county Republican central committee. In the fall of 1898 he was elected county treasurer by a majority of twenty-seven hundred, and in December of that year he took the oath of office for a term of four years. In the spring of 1899 he moved to Joliet, where he now resides. He is a member of Bartleson Post No. 6, G. A. R.

In Cambridge, Ill., Mr. Gifford married Miss Lydia Bryan, who was born in Stark County, Ill., daughter of an old settler there. They are the parents of four children: Edson, who is deputy county treasurer; Estella, Mrs. R. J. Hemphill, of Aurora, Ill.; Katie and Grace, at home.

mastered the language. About a year after he came he began to take contracts for the erection of houses, and he has since continued in the business. Besides building residences in different parts of the city, he has had the contracts for the Lemont Orphans' Home. In 1890 he laid out Polson place, between Jackson and Benton streets, on Hickory Creek, and this property he improved with residences which he later sold. In 1899 he erected a double brick two-story building on Jackson street. He has also built over fifty residences for himself, selling them as opportunity presented.

Mr. Polson was born near Helsingborg, Skåne, Sweden, May 31, 1846. His father, Paul, a son of Nils, was born in the same vicinity, and engaged extensively in the distilling business until his death, at forty-three years. Twice married, he had two children by his first union, and one of these is still living. His second wife was Boel Nelson, who died in Skåne in 1889, when eighty-three years of age. Of their children, Johanna died in Sweden; Nels is a farmer in Skåne, and Kerin also resides in that country. The youngest of the four, Peter, was five years of age when his father died, and he was reared on the home farm by his mother. From fourteen to seventeen years of age he worked on the farm. At an early age he formed a resolution to learn the carpenter's trade, and when he was eighteen he hired a man to take his place on the farm while he apprenticed himself to the trade. After three years he entered the Swedish army, where he served for two years in a hussar cavalry regiment. On leaving the army he worked at his trade, which he followed in his native land, in conjunction with farming, until he came to the United States in 1881.

Though not active in politics, Mr. Polson is a staunch Republican, and keeps posted concerning public affairs. He is a member of the Joliet Builders' Association. From the organization of the Swedish Lutheran Church he has been one of its leading members, and at the time of the erection of a house of worship he served on the building committee. For nine years he held office as a deacon, and for fourteen years he assisted in

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**PETER POLSON.** With the energy characteristic of his nationality, Mr. Polson has devoted himself to contracting and building in Joliet. He arrived in this city from his native land May 22, 1881, and at once secured employment in carpentering. Realizing that a knowledge of the English language was necessary in order to carry on business successfully, he devoted his evenings to study, and soon



the Sunday-school work as a deacon. He has also represented his congregation in the synod. Before leaving Sweden he married Batilda Swenson, daughter of a farmer. She died in Joliet, September 30, 1882. They were the parents of five children, namely: Samuel, a carpenter in Joliet; Pauline, in Chicago; Marie and Josephine, at home, and Carl L., who died in infancy.

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**X**AVIER BIETH, who is engaged in farming in Troy Township, was born in 1831 in Alsace, then a part of France, but now a German province. He was reared on a farm operated by his father, John Bieth, and from an early age assisted the latter in his work. At sixteen years of age he was apprenticed to the shoemaker's trade, which he followed for some years afterward. He was not, however, content to remain in his native land, where the opportunities for success were so few and the hardships so many. He therefore resolved to seek a home in the new world. In 1853 he took passage on a sailing vessel that anchored in New York after a voyage of thirty-six days. Coming direct to Illinois, he secured work in the construction of the Chicago & Alton Railroad, but after he had been working forty-one days, the contractor left secretly, and he received no remuneration. His first experience in our country was far from encouraging, but he had the faith to believe that better things awaited him. His next employment was as a farm hand, for which he was paid \$8 a month.

After having worked for others for eight years Mr. Bieth rented a farm and for six years engaged in its cultivation. Meantime he frugally saved each year's profits and was finally able to buy a place of his own. His first purchase consisted of eighty acres in the southern part of Troy Township, and he remained there for some time, working with painstaking care upon the place and increasing its value by his improvements. In 1881 he bought a farm of two hundred and twenty acres. In the cultivation of the land he

met with success from the first. He has added to his holdings until he now has three hundred and sixty acres, of which he operates one hundred and twenty acres, and rents the remainder. Among the improvements he has made is a wind-mill seventy-five feet high.

While Mr. Bieth has not been active in politics, he is a staunch Democrat, and never fails to cast his ballots at elections. In 1860 he married Ellen Lynk, by whom he has seven children, namely: John; Mary, wife of John Stepher; Joseph; Frank; Josephine, wife of George Stephens; Theresa and Emma. The family are members of St. John's Roman Catholic Church. In all of his business transactions Mr. Bieth is exceedingly cautious; this trait of character being probably emphasized by reason of his early unfortunate experience in America. Conservatism is one of his most marked traits. When, however, he is convinced of the value of an enterprise, he is ready to give it his co-operation and assistance. All through his active life he has been a hard-working man, and his industry and perseverance have been rewarded by the accumulation of valuable farm property.

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**W**ILLIAM H. HUNTER was born in Joliet, Ill., August 1, 1854, the only son of Thomas R. and Lucinda (Smith) Hunter. He has an only sister, Fatha, who is the wife of J. Q. A. King, of Kansas City, Mo. His father was a native of Sullivan County, N. Y., born February 2, 1818, and grew to manhood in his native county; when he was but seven years of age, his father, Robert, was killed by a tree falling on him while he was engaged in clearing a piece of timber land.

During the early life of Thomas R. Hunter he was engaged in rafting logs down the Delaware River. Later he served an apprenticeship to the blacksmith's trade, on the completion of which, in 1837, he started for the west. Locating in Joliet, Ill., he opened a shop on Bluff and Oneida



streets, and formed a co-partnership with a Mr. McMasters. Much of his work was the making and sharpening of the tools used in the construction of the Illinois and Michigan canal. The co-partnership continued until the spring of 1850, when, in March of that year, he started across the plains for California with a party of Argonauts bound for the "Golden Gate." After a journey of six months he arrived at his destination and located a claim on the Feather River, in California. In about seven months he had worked out his claim, at which time he returned east via the Isthmus, arriving at home fifteen months from the day he started. With him he brought back \$5,000, the fruits of his mining venture. He then built a residence on Oneida street and Broadway, and resumed work on Oneida and Bluff streets, in the old stone shop that is still standing.

In 1856 he purchased what is now block 70, S. S. Addition to Joliet; here, having retired from blacksmithing, he engaged in fruit raising. To this land he added until he owned some twenty-nine acres in the same vicinity. Some of his original purchase of block 70 is still in the possession of his son. In politics he was a Republican, and on that ticket he was twice elected an alderman of Joliet. The last six years of his life were spent in his son's home, where his death occurred April 22, 1888.

The ancestry of the Hunter family is traced back to Scotland on the one hand, and, also, through the Davenports, to colonists who crossed in the "Mayflower."

The wife of Thomas R. Hunter was born in Tennessee April 25, 1826, being a daughter of Barton and Fatha Smith, who came from Indiana to Joliet in 1835. She passed away at her home in Joliet March 15, 1882. For a number of years Barton Smith was a justice of the peace in Joliet, where he died September 22, 1863.

The subject of this sketch was reared in Joliet, and has always made this city his home. For about eighteen years he was engaged in the coal business, but in 1893 he sold out his interests to O. W. Curtis. Later he had the agency for various agricultural implements, and in the meantime also took the agency for the Stempel

Fire Extinguisher. The latter proving a successful venture, he gave up the former agency, and since 1898 has given his undivided attention to the extinguisher business, and also sells the Eads chemicalizer and chemical engines, having his office at No. 613 the Rialto Building, Chicago, Ill.

November 13, 1878, Mr. Hunter married Miss Mollie P. Turner, of Lockport, Ill., a daughter of S. S. and Caroline Turner. Her father, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1822, came west in 1850, settling in Plainfield, in this county, where he followed his trade of a moulder and pattern-maker. Later he bought from John Griffin what is now known as the McGuire farm, west of Lockport. His wife died in Lockport December 24, 1860, and he then moved with his family to Buchanan, Mich., where he again followed his trade, but returning to Lockport in 1862. November 15, 1861, he married Mrs. F. H. Richards, of Plainfield, Ill., who died October 2, 1867. He was again married April 12, 1871, his wife being Mrs. Mary E. Sayre, by whom he had one child. He died May 25, 1882, on the sixtieth anniversary of his birth.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunter have two children, Caroline L. and Robert S. The family have all united with the Ottawa Street Methodist Episcopal Church, of whose choir Miss Caroline is a prominent member. Fraternally Mr. Hunter is connected with Matteson Lodge No. 175, A. F. & A. M., of Joliet.

**C**HARLES V. BARR. To those in the least familiar with Plainfield's industries the name of Mr. Barr is well known. He is junior member of the firm of Whipple & Barr, and has the personal oversight of the firm's business at this point, Mr. Whipple having charge of their elevator at Caton Farm. They have built up a large business in grain, and also deal extensively in coal and lumber. By their reliability and energy they have gained the respect of acquaintances and the confidence of business men.

Mr. Barr was born in Morris, Grundy County, Ill., June 28, 1864. His father, John, a native of County Antrim, Ireland, learned the weaver's trade in that country and in 1851 came to America, settling in Albany, N. Y. After a short time he proceeded westward, establishing his home in Morris, Ill., where he embarked in the grain business, and became the owner of an elevator. His death occurred in that town when he was fifty-eight years of age. In personal qualities he was a man to attract and retain friends, possessing a genial nature and great energy. He did not confine his attention to the grain business, but had other interests, being a large cattle feeder and also the owner of a distillery which he operated until it burned in 1871. He then erected a flour mill on its site. His success was all the result of his own efforts, as he had no means when starting out for himself. In religion he is a Presbyterian. The Democratic party received his allegiance, and he was active in its support. He was several times elected treasurer of Grundy County, for two terms held the office of mayor of Morris (a town of four thousand people) and for years served as supervisor.

The wife of John Barr was Elizabeth Smith, who was born in Fulton County, N. Y., and now makes her home in Los Angeles, Cal. She is a member of an old family whose history in the United States is traced back to the landing of the "Mayflower," being directly descended from John Howland and Daniel Wardwell. In her family there were six children. The oldest, Nellie G., is the wife of R. E. Mason, of Los Angeles, Cal. The second-born, Robert, died when twenty-five years of age; Charles V. was third in order of birth. Francis E. is principal of the Episcopal Seminary at Portland, Ore. Alice C. is the wife of Bert Smith, of Springfield, Mass. John C., the youngest of the family, is a letter carrier in Los Angeles, Cal.

The boyhood days of our subject were spent in Morris, and his education was obtained in the common schools. When he was thirteen he began working as a messenger and office boy with William Young, a grain dealer in Chicago, with whom he continued for several years.

When he was twenty-one he bought a membership in the board of trade in Chicago, where he continued as a broker until September, 1890. Then, in connection with his brother-in-law, Levi Whipple, he leased the elevator at Plainfield, which they afterward bought. They have also built and now own the elevator at Caton Farm.

In politics Mr. Barr is independent. He is connected with Plainfield Lodge No. 472, K. of P., in which he is past chancellor. His marriage, August 23, 1886, united him with Miss Kate Stone, of Morris, a well-educated lady and an active member of the Congregational Church. They are the parents of two sons, Allan Stone, born May 23, 1896, and John Raymond, born October 17, 1897.

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JOHN SENNITT, who has been connected with the office of postmaster of Plainfield for thirty-nine years and whose home has been in this town since 1857, is a native of Cambridgeshire, England, born January 15, 1830, a son of John Sennitt, Sr. He grew to manhood on his father's farm and received his education in the schools of the neighborhood. After some years as a farmer in Cambridgeshire he came to the United States, when twenty-four years of age. The voyage across the ocean was made on the "Palestine," which was out of sight of land for a month. Going to Ohio he spent one winter and the following summer as a farm hand there. With a desire to gain a better education he entered Hiram College in the fall of 1856 and while there became well acquainted with James A. Garfield, afterward president of the United States, but who then was comparatively unknown.

The spring of 1857 found Mr. Sennitt in Plainfield, where he secured work as a farm employe. However, the work proved injurious to his health, and he was obliged to seek another occupation. In the spring of 1860 he secured an appointment as assistant postmaster, and since that time he has been continuously in the office, either



as postmaster or deputy. In July, 1869, he was appointed postmaster and continued to act as such until President Cleveland's first administration, after which for two terms he served as deputy. Since the inauguration of President McKinley he has held the office in his own right, which makes a record of thirty-nine years in the office, and proves him to be a satisfactory official. He has always been staunch in his adherence to Republican principles and the party in Plainfield has no adherent more loyal than he. He is connected with and a liberal contributor to the Baptist Church, in which denomination his grandfather was for many years a minister. He has done much for the advancement of the village and has fostered worthy enterprises to the extent of his ability. He erected a postoffice building, which was burned in 1898, after which he built the structure, on the same site, that is now used for the office.

The marriage of Mr. Sennitt took place April 20, 1871, and united him with Emma A. Drew, a member of a pioneer family of this county. They became the parents of five children, four of whom are living, namely: Lina May, Carrie Belle, Grace and Charles.

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**H**ERBERT S. WORTHLEY, M. D., of Elwood and Joliet, is one of the successful physicians of the county. In 1890 he began his professional studies in the medical department of the Northwestern University (then known as the Chicago Medical College), from which he graduated three years later at the head of his class. It was the custom in the institution to confer the position of house physician and surgeon of Mercy Hospital, Chicago, Ill., upon the student receiving the highest grade in a competitive examination, and Dr. Worthley was successful in securing the highest standing, and was therefore appointed to the position, which he filled for one year. In the spring of 1895 he came to Elwood and established an office at this

point. Through his skill as a practitioner he has built up a flourishing practice. On account of frequent calls to Joliet he decided to open an office in the city, and in 1898 established a branch office at No. 426 Barber building, where he spends two days of each week. He also receives frequent requests for his services at the hospital, so that his time is fully taken up in professional work.

A son of Robert C. and Waity (Reynolds) Worthley, the subject of this sketch, was born in Odell, Ill., December 15, 1867. He was third among five children, the others being Eva, wife of William Shanks, a farmer at Bonfield, Ill.; Hattie, who married William Ackley, a merchant of Pontiac, Ill.; Wallace, a teacher at Odell; and Evans, at home. The father, who was born in Plattsburg, N. Y., in 1833, graduated from an academy in his home town, after which he engaged in teaching for a number of years, but later became interested in saw and grist milling. In 1865 he removed with his family to Odell, Ill., where he has since made his home. He is one of the leading men of the town and an active worker in the Methodist Church. His parents were natives of New York. His father-in-law, Henry Reynolds, was born in Vermont, and always made his home there. While working on his farm one day he was killed by lightning. Afterward his widow removed to Illinois, but a few years later joined a son in Plattsburg, N. Y. She died at the home of a daughter in Bombay, N. Y.

The education of Dr. Worthley was acquired in the Odell high school and the state normal university at Normal, Ill. At seventeen years of age he began to teach school, which occupation he followed for six years. With the money thus earned he began the study of medicine, and for two years was under the preceptorship of Dr. T. O. Banister, of Odell, going from there to the Northwestern University for the completion of his course. He has been a constant student of his profession. The diploma granted him as an M. D. did not mean for him the conclusion of his studies; on the other hand, he has studied to keep abreast with the progress made in therapeutics and surgery, and is a thoughtful reader of medi-



cial literature. Through his membership in the county and state medical societies he keeps in touch with the work of his colaborers in the profession. In political belief he is independent, with Democratic tendencies, but his time being closely engrossed by his profession, he takes no part in local politics. He is one of the trustees of the village of Elwood, among whose citizens he holds a leading place. Fraternally he is connected with Jackson Camp No. 3318, Modern Woodmen of America, and District Court No. 523, Supreme Court of Honor. January 9, 1895, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna E. Ball, and they are the parents of a daughter, Beatrice, born July 15, 1899.

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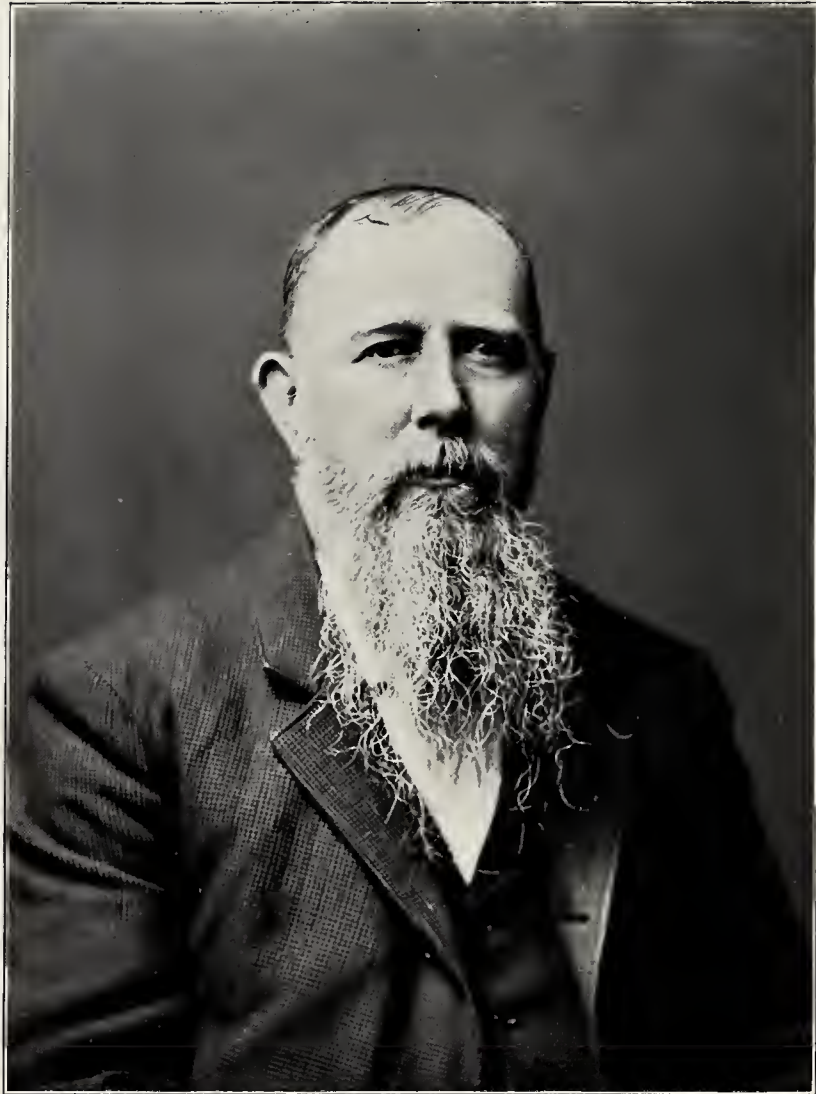
**R**OBERT H. HACKNEY, superintendent of the Fox Pressed Steel Company of Joliet, is one of the rising young mechanical engineers of this city and has shown decided ability in the discharge of his responsible duties. Much of his talent in his chosen occupation is without doubt inherited from his father, Clement Hackney, who is a skilled mechanic and machinist, and his grandfather, George Hackney, was also a machinist of more than ordinary ability. The latter brought his family to the United States and secured employment with the Hoe Printing Press Company in New York City, but after a time removed west to Milwaukee, Wis., and was employed as superintendent of motive power with the St. Paul, North-Western, Q and Santa Fe roads successively. He is now living retired in Chicago.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Clem-

ent Hackney held positions with the same railroads and followed the same line of work. He was also engaged as superintendent of motive power for the Union Pacific Railroad at Omaha. From that work he drifted into the manufacturing business, and accepted a position as general manager of the Fox Pressed Steel Company. He had charge of the building of the company's plants in Joliet and Pittsburg. In 1889 the works were started in Joliet and two years later he transferred his residence from Milwaukee to this city, where he has since had his home. He is a man whose vigor of mind and quickness of comprehension, combined with originality of ideas, have made him successful in the various interests with which he has been identified. His work has required his entire time, hence he has not been identified with public affairs nor has he sought prominence in politics, but devotes himself closely to private interests.

The only child of the marriage of Clement and Mary (Stuart) Hackney is Robert H. Hackney. He was born in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1870, and was well and liberally educated, attending schools in the various cities where his father resided. He prepared for college in Milwaukee Academy. In 1889 he entered the University of Wisconsin, where he took a complete course in mechanical engineering, and graduated in 1893, with the degree of M. E. Coming to Joliet he at once connected himself with the company of which his father was the manager, and, beginning in a less important position, he worked his way up until in 1898 he was made superintendent, a position that he fills acceptably to the company and with credit to himself. He is a member of the Alumni Association and the Phi Delta Theta of the University of Wisconsin.





*D. W. Jump, M. D.*



## DAVID W. JUMP.

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**D**AVID W. JUMP, M. D. There are few professions that require the amount of diligent study and general information that is essential to the science of medicine. Among the physicians who realize the full importance of their responsibilities and who add dignity to the profession, is Dr. Jump, who has been engaged in continuous practice in Plainfield since his graduation in March, 1872. In addition to his practice, for some ten years he has conducted the leading drug store of the city, and this he still owns. He aims to keep up with the times in matters of research and discovery in the medical world, and to that end reads the leading medical journals and remains to this day a student of his profession.

In what is now Chicago Junction, Huron County, Ohio, Dr. Jump was born August 24, 1847, a son of William H. and Margaret (Richards) Jump, natives respectively of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Herkimer County, N. Y. His grandfather, Robert Jump, was reared on a plantation near Easton, Md., but in early manhood moved to Virginia. At his father's death he inherited four slaves, but these he freed, being opposed to the institution of slavery. After a short time in Virginia he settled in Ohio across the river from Wheeling. Two years later he moved to Richland County, Ohio, where he purchased a heavily-timbered tract, and this he cleared and improved. The remainder of his life of eighty-four years was spent on that place. While he moved from Virginia to get away from slavery influences and environments, yet when the Civil war came, his sympathies were wholly with the South, which he believed was not treated justly by the North.

When the family settled in Ohio our subject's father was seven years of age. His health being poor, he was prevented from enjoying the pleasures and advantages of youth to a large extent. However, he secured a good education and for a time taught school, but his delicate health prevented him from achieving the success in life he would otherwise have gained. He died when fifty-three years of age. After the disintegration of the Whig party he affiliated with the Republicans. His wife survived him for twenty years, dying at the age of sixty-three. They were the parents of six sons and three daughters, namely. David W.; Alemby, now mayor of Chicago Junction, Ohio; Winfield Scott, also a resident of Ohio; Amos, of Norwalk, Ohio, who served as treasurer of his county for two terms; Robert, Marietta, Helen and Charles, who remain on the old homestead; and Lucy, deceased.

In order to gain the money for his medical education our subject taught school, meantime giving his leisure days to the reading of medicine with Dr. Buckingham, of Chicago Junction. In March, 1872, he graduated from the medical department of the University of Michigan, since which he has built up a large practice in Plainfield. He is connected with Plainfield Lodge No. 536, A. F. & A. M. While he refuses official positions (except that of school director), he is firm in his allegiance to the Republican party and takes a lively interest in public matters. He was married in Plainfield to Miss Alice Watkins, who was born and educated in this city, her father having been a pioneer farmer of the county. The older son of Dr. and Mrs. Jump is Clyde W., who is a student in the literary and medical

departments of the University of Michigan. The younger son, Charles Floyd, is a graduate of the Joliet high school, and now clerks in his father's drug store.

**C**HARLES E. WOODRUFF, secretary and manager of the Joliet Pure Ice Company, and a director of the Will County Abstract Company, also the Joliet Warehouse and Transfer Company, is one of the influential business men of Joliet, where he has resided since 1884. The business with which his name is most closely associated was established by him in 1896, when a plant was built on Cass street, connected by a switch with the Rock Island Railroad. A large wholesale and retail business is transacted, which extends throughout central Illinois and is not limited to ice, but also includes all kinds of coal. Ice is manufactured from distilled water by means of the Empire ice machine, operated by two engines of one hundred and twenty horse power each. The plant has a capacity of forty tons a day, the business being the largest of its kind in Joliet. The members of the company are A. J. Bates, president, and C. E. Woodruff, secretary and manager, the former being the principal owner, while the latter has the entire supervision of the plant, and to him its success is largely due.

The Woodruff family originated in England, whence John (or Jack) Woodruff crossed the ocean in the "Mayflower," settling in Massachusetts, thence going to Connecticut, where subsequent generations were identified with the world's activities. The grandfather, Simeon Woodruff, who was the son of a Revolutionary soldier, was born in Rutland, Vt., and married Rosa Adams, a great-niece of John Adams, second president of the United States; she lived to be one hundred years of age. About 1799 Simeon Woodruff removed to Jefferson County, N. Y., and settled on land now included in the city of Watertown. His oldest daughter was the first white girl baby born in the county. He was a typical pioneer, energetic, hard-working and hospitable, and through

his industry he evolved a valuable farm from the wilderness. One of his sons, Theodore T., a man of great ability, was the first patentee of sleeping cars, but sold the patent to George M. Pullman. He became very wealthy through his inventions and manufactures. When his mother was a very aged woman she made her first trip out of Jefferson County, for seventy-two years, on which occasion she came west in a palace car owned by her son. This was, indeed, the only journey she ever made in all of her long life with the exception of the trip from Vermont to New York, when she traveled in a mud sleigh drawn by oxen.

The ownership of the homestead at Watertown descended to Simeon's son, Charles T., who was born there, and who, through his active years, superintended farm property and also engaged in carpentering and the manufacture of brick. He died in 1894, when eighty years of age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary Ann Clark, was born in Ellisburg, Jefferson County, N. Y., and died in 1885. She was a daughter of John Clark, a farmer of that county. Of her five children all but one are living. John holds a government position in Watertown; Rose Adams, Mrs. Henderson, is a widow living in Joliet; and Abba is the wife of Edward Irwin, of Chicago. The subject of this sketch was born October 9, 1859, at the old homestead in Watertown, which he now owns. In 1877 he graduated from the Watertown high school, after which he taught school for one year and then for two years read law in the office of Winslow & Smith. He received the appointment of chief clerk in the state treasurer's office at Albany, N. Y., from which he was transferred to the state insurance department in New York City, remaining in office until the Democrats came into power, when he resigned. In 1880 he married Jennie C., daughter of S. M. Robinson, M. D., one of the oldest and most prominent physicians of Watertown. After his marriage he engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods in Watertown until 1884, when he came west to Illinois and became interested with H. B. Scott & Co. in the manufacture of wire, establishing an office in Chicago, but maintain-



ing his residence in Joliet. He continued with the company until he embarked in the ice business.

In Illinois, as in New York, Mr. Woodruff continues his active support of Republican principles, and, as a member of the Will County central committee, he has been able to materially advance the interests of his party in this section. He is a charter member of the Union Club, of which he was elected the first secretary and for many years has been a member of its board of directors. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America and Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. His wife is a member of Central Presbyterian Church, to the work of which he has contributed. They are the parents of one son, Glen C., who is being educated in the Military School at Knoxville, Ill.

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**JOSHUA BUSH.** Among the leading citizens of Jackson Township the name of Mr. Bush is one which deserves mention in a work of this character. He is an active and enterprising farmer and stock-dealer; a man of intelligent ideas, liberal views and strict moral worth; while the confidence reposed in him by his fellow-citizens is manifested by his selection to serve in various positions of trust and honor. His political opinions bring him into affiliation with the Republican party, whose county conventions he has attended as a delegate. In 1890 he was chosen census enumerator of the township, and at another time he served as township collector. The appointment of postmaster at Elwood was conferred upon him in December, 1898, and he has since filled the position, displaying in it the same energy, efficiency and wise judgment characteristic of him in every relation of life.

Mr. Bush was born in New York state September 12, 1845, a son of William and Emily (Bentley) Bush, and a grandson of Joshua Bentley, Sr., an agriculturist of New York, and a Presbyterian in religious belief. His father,

who was a native of Pennsylvania, was reared in New York and engaged in farming there for some years. In 1847 he came to Illinois and bought a farm in Will County. For thirty years he was actively engaged in the improvement of the land. His industry was great, and he was classed among the best farmers of the county. Devoting his time closely to his private affairs, he had little leisure for participation in politics, and no desire to serve in official capacities. However, he has always taken a warm interest in matters pertaining to the welfare of the people, and even now, when ninety years of age, he still retains much of his mental vigor and his hearty interest in national issues. Until recent years he was a Democrat, but now gives his influence for the Prohibition party. While serving as highway commissioner it was his aim to improve the condition of the roads in his township. In 1879 he retired from his farm and settled in Elwood, where he has since made his home. He is a member of the Methodist Church of that place.

By the marriage of William Bush to Miss Bentley, of New York, four children were born, namely: Eli, a farmer living near Wilmington, this county; Rhulof, of Ackley, Iowa; Mathew; and Joshua. Rhulof and Mathew were soldiers in the Civil war, and the former, who was a member of the Twentieth Illinois Infantry, was disabled by a wound at Shiloh; while the latter was killed in the battle of Chickamauga, in September, 1863. Mrs. Emily (Bentley) Bush was born in New York state about 1820. She was a lady of great strength of character, a devoted Christian, a good mother, friend and neighbor. Her death occurred January 16, 1888.

When less than seventeen years of age the subject of this sketch enlisted, July 26, 1862, in Company G, One Hundredth Illinois Infantry, and with his regiment went to the front, where he took a part in the various battles of his division. He participated in the battles of Stone River and Chickamauga and the Atlanta campaign. At the battle of Franklin, November 30, 1863, he was wounded, and from there sent to the hospital at Nashville, where he remained for two months,



then returned to his regiment. He was in East Tennessee at the time of Lee's surrender in April, 1865, and was then sent back to Nashville, later being ordered to Chicago, where he was mustered out in June, 1865.

On his return home at the close of the war Mr. Bush began farming, an occupation in which he has met with success; he has been engaged in raising horses, cattle and hogs, and has made a specialty of buying horses in connection with Mr. Stoddard, of New York. His prosperity is to be attributed to his energy and industry, backed by a good share of common sense. In his manners he is plain and straightforward, genial in his intercourse with friends, and of a generous, kindly spirit. His army life is held in remembrance and the old associations are perpetuated through his connection with the Grand Army Post.

On New Year's day of 1867 Mr. Bush married Margaret R., daughter of John Grant, a pioneer of 1834, in Will County. Mr. Grant was born in Scotland, and after settling in this county became a large farmer, as well as a prominent man of affairs. He was a son of John Grant, Sr., a farmer of Scotland, and a member of an old Scotch Presbyterian family. He was the first of the family to seek a home in America, although about 1850 three of his brothers joined him in Will County. At the time of immigrating, in 1834, he was eighteen years of age. For a few months he traveled in search of a location. Coming to Illinois, he was employed as a sub-contractor on the Illinois and Michigan canal. In 1838 he bought property at Reed's Grove, purchasing the first farm opened in Jackson Township. On that place he began farming and stock-raising. Subsequently he became the owner of several farms, and at the time of his death was well-to-do. He held a number of local offices, including that of justice of the peace. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1854 he died of the cholera, aged thirty-eight years and six months. By his first wife he had a son, William C., now living in Elwood, this county. For his second wife he married Adaline, daughter of Thomas Frazier, and a native of Greenbrier County, W. Va. After the death of her

father in 1834 she accompanied her mother and the other children from West Virginia to this county, settling at Forked Creek, Wesley Township, where her mother died in 1845. Mrs. Grant was a woman of noble Christian character, a devoted wife and mother, and a kind neighbor. She died December 5, 1880. Four children were born of Mr. Grant's second marriage. Of these Mary A. died of the cholera in 1854, when nine years old. John A. and James M. reside in Joliet. Margaret R., the only surviving daughter, was born in the house where she still resides. She is a lady of marked strength of character, a faithful member of the Methodist Church, and a member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, being in thorough sympathy with the efforts of this organization to put down the liquor traffic. Other worthy movements receive her sympathy and active aid. In all her husband's labors she has been his counselor, and not a little of his success is due to her assistance. They are the parents of six children now living: Ella M., who is her father's deputy in the post-office; Eva M., who is teaching school; Harry E., a farmer; Lulu L., Florence and Arthur. Two children, Albert and Lois, died when small.

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**AUGUSTUS R. MARTIN.** Farming and stock-raising have formed the chief occupations of Mr. Martin. For many years he has been recognized as an intelligent agriculturist of Plainfield Township, whose industry and perseverance have brought him prosperity. In the raising of stock his specialty has been Norman and Clyde horses, and he has also kept on his place a number of cattle. In 1894 he erected a commodious farm house, supplied with all of the modern conveniences, and this his family have fitted up in a neat and tasteful manner so that it affords them a comfortable home. At this writing he rents the land, having given up the active management of the place with a desire to spend his remaining years in retirement.

During colonial days three brothers came to America and two of these took part in the Revolutionary war, one being the ancestor of our subject and a pioneer of Manchester, N. H. Jesse Martin, our subject's father, was born in New Hampshire in 1798. At the opening of the war of 1812 he practiced with his rifle in order to gain skill in its use, hoping he might see active service at the front, but he was so young that the family refused to permit him to go. When a young man he worked in the dressing of cloth that was woven by the people of his vicinity. Afterward he engaged in lumbering, then cleared a tract of land, finally resuming the dressing of cloth. For seven years prior to coming west he carried on a mercantile business in Dexter, Me. In 1852 he came to Illinois and purchased the farm where our subject now lives. Of the eighty acres forty-five had been broken. Later he bought another eighty-acre tract, of which he sold twenty acres. For a time he made his home in a small house that stood on the land at the time of its purchase, but in 1858 he erected a more commodious and substantial residence, and in it he died in 1893. In religion he was of the Universalist faith. In 1856 he left the Democratic party and joined the ranks of the Republican organization, voting for Colonel Fremont. He afterward remained a Republican. It was while he engaged in business in Maine that he married Mary Sprague, daughter of Elijah Sprague, who was an early settler of his county and served as sheriff and in other offices. By this marriage three children were born, one of whom died in childhood and another, Joseph P., who was one of the earliest commercial travelers from Plainfield, died in 1899.

The birth of our subject occurred in Dexter, Penobscot County, Me., October 3, 1832. He was educated in public schools and assisted his father in the store. Since coming to this county he has resided on his present farm, assisting his father until the latter's death, since which time he has owned the place. He is well posted concerning topics of current interest, and is a Republican in his political views. His religious faith is that of the Universalist Church. In 1859 he married Sarah Sloper, of Waterville, Me., whose grandfather

came to this country from England. They became the parents of three children, but only one is now living, Annie, who is a talented musician and has received excellent advantages in that art.

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GILES D. FOSTER, of Plainfield, was born in Otsego County, N. Y., March 29, 1820. His father, Lyman, a native of Meriden, Conn., at twelve years of age accompanied his parents to Lewis County, N. Y., and there continued to reside until 1844. For a number of years he owned a paper mill in Otsego County. In October, 1844, he came to Plainfield and bought a farm one mile north of the village, which he operated for a number of years. His last days were spent, retired from active labors, in the village of Plainfield, and here he died at ninety years of age. He had been a prominent man in pioneer politics, and was recognized as one of the leading Democrats of his locality. For many years he held the office of justice of the peace in Lewis and Otsego Counties, N. Y., and for some time served as highway commissioner in Plainfield. In 1848 he was elected one of the county judges, but the law providing for the office proved to be unconstitutional, so he never took his seat. In religion he was connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Our subject's grandfather, Giles Foster, a native of Connecticut and a large farmer and miller, was very prominent in his section of the state, and as a business man was unusually active and efficient. When quite young he served as a private in the Revolutionary war. Politically he was a Democrat. In religion he was a life-long member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His death occurred when he was eighty-seven. One of his sons, Isaac, was sent west as a home missionary for the Presbyterian Church in 1837, and established his home in Plainfield, where he remained until 1852 and then went to California. The great-grandfather, Timothy Foster, probably a native of England, was commissioned by



the king of England as high constable in New England. He was a man of large frame and great powers of endurance.

The mother of our subject, Esther Blood, was born near Bennington, Vt., and at fifteen years of age moved to New York with her parents. She died in Will County in 1865. In religious views she was a Methodist. Her father, Jared Blood, a native of Vermont, served in the Revolutionary war. While he was a farmer by occupation, his attention was largely given to the public service. While living in Vermont he served as a member of the legislature, and after going to New York he was judge of the court of Chenango County for several years. The family of which our subject was the oldest consisted of seven children, the others being Louisa J., deceased, who was the wife of Albert Beckwith; Lafayette, deceased; Augusta M., who married Alonzo Hemstreet and lives in Plainfield; Mary A., deceased; Helen M., Mrs. Allen Bliss, deceased; and Cornelia E., wife of John Platt, a farmer of Plainfield Township.

The education of our subject was obtained in local schools and Louisville Academy at Louisville, N. Y. In 1844 he accompanied his parents to this county, after which he remained with his father for eight years. In 1852 he went to California via Panama, being one of the first passengers who crossed the Isthmus of Panama on the railroad. Arriving in the far west, he engaged in mining near Columbia, Tuolumne County, Cal. He also farmed for a year. In 1859 he sold his interests in California and returned to Plainfield. With the exception of a few years on a farm, he has since made this village his home, and for twenty years he served as justice of the peace here, also for two years was a member of the board of trustees. In political matters he believes firmly in Republican principles. He has never identified himself with fraternal organizations, although his father was a prominent Mason and one of the organizers of a blue lodge in Joliet.

December 18, 1878, Mr. Foster married Miss Emma Hawkins, daughter of Ephraim and Artemisia (Cleghorn) Hawkins. Her father, a

native of New York state, went to Canada in youth and there settled on a farm. While he was still a young man he removed to Beloit, Wis., and bought and improved a farm. Later he came to this county, and after a few months in Joliet he embarked in the grocery business, which he conducted in that city and in Lockport for several years. While in Canada he married Miss Cleghorn, who died in Joliet. Both were members of the Presbyterian Church. His death occurred in September, 1895, when he was seventy-nine years old. Of his three children, Emma was born in Beloit, Wis.; Edward M. is publisher and manager of a mining paper in Denver, Colo.; and Carrie is a clerk in the county recorder's office at Joliet. Mrs. Foster was educated in Joliet and Lockport, and possesses the traits of character that win the regard of associates. In religion she is a Congregationalist. To her marriage four children were born, viz.: Helen A.; Edward D., who is a student in the law department of Michigan State University; Esther A. and Alice E.

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JAMES B. HERBERT, who has made his home in Joliet since he was a boy, claims Illinois as his native state, and was born near Champaign, July 15, 1865. The family of which he is a member descends from Scotch ancestors. His grandfather, James Herbert, and great-grandfather, both of whom were born in Scotland, crossed the ocean to Canada, settling upon a farm in Ontario. The father, Abraham, was a native of Canada, and grew to manhood upon the Ontario homestead. In 1864 he settled in Champaign, Ill., where he was employed as a clerk for others and also engaged in business for himself. In 1876 he came to Will County and for a time carried on gardening in New Lenox, but soon settled in Joliet. His last years were spent in retirement from business cares, and he died in this city in January, 1889. During his residence in Ontario he married Jane Bothwell, who was born in Montreal, of English descent, and was



left an orphan in childhood. She is still living and makes her home on Washington street, Joliet. Of the four children comprising the family three are living, viz.: James Bothwell, William and Newton, the two latter being carpenters in Joliet. Our subject assisted his father during his boyhood, first in gardening and afterward in teaming. In 1885 he began teaming for himself, in which he continued until 1897. During the latter year he took the contract for the sprinkling of the city streets, and has since devoted his entire time to this work. He owns and uses four sprinklers that were built in South Bend, Ind., each having a capacity of from six to seven hundred gallons. For the water used in these sprinklers he pays the city over \$600 per annum.

Always a friend of the Republican party, Mr. Herbert has served in both the city and county conventions. He is a member of the Joliet Teamsters' Union, and fraternally is connected with the Knights of Pythias, the Order of Macabees and the Patriotic Order Sons of America. In religious connections he is identified with the Richards Street Methodist Episcopal Church. He built and now occupies a residence at No. 210 Baker avenue. His marriage, in Joliet, April 1, 1886, united him with Miss Clara Shiffer, who was born in Plainfield Township, this county, a daughter of John Shiffer. Four children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert, of whom Roy and Florence are living. Two sons, Arlington and Earl, died at the ages respectively of two and one-half years and eighteen months.

and has taken an active part in lodge and encampment work. He is also identified with other fraternal organizations, chiefly the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the blue lodge and chapter of Masonry.

In Koenigsburg, Germany, Mr. Goldberg was born April 15, 1857, being next to the youngest of four children, of whom two sisters are in Chicago and a brother, Herman, is a soldier in the German army, stationed at Koenigsburg. His father, Herman, who was the son of Samuel Goldberg, a member of an old family of Koenigsburg, learned the business of a horse dealer under his father, who bought horses for the government, and he remained in his native burg until he died. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Leyen, was a daughter of Louis Leyen, was born in Koenigsburg and spent her entire life there.

Leaving home in 1873, Mr. Goldberg went to Liverpool, where he took passage for New York. Arriving in this country he proceeded to Chicago, where he at once engaged in business. In 1883 he began to buy car load lots of iron, shipping the same to various rolling mills, and in this way he continued until the time of his location in Joliet. His first location in this city was at No. 113 Bluff street, and here he has since had his headquarters. Securing his material from the Fox Solid Pressed Steel Company, and many other concerns in the United States, he ships the same to eastern mills, doing a large business in this line. His plant is equipped with every improvement, including large shears, four to six inches in diameter, and twenty-six inches in length, operated by electricity. Besides this business in scrap iron, since 1894 he has carried on a coal and coke business, and in 1899 took his son-in-law into partnership, under the firm name of Goldberg & Reubens, their office and yards being on Clinton street, opposite the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad.

The handsome residence of Mr. Goldberg is at No. 152 Comstock street. He was married in Chicago to Miss Jennie Weinberg, who was born in Detroit, Mich. They are the parents of three children, of whom the daughter is the wife of L. M. Reubens. The older son, Louis, who

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**M**AJ. MAX GOLDBERG, who has been engaged in business in Joliet since 1888, is one of the prominent members of the Uniform Rank, K. of P., and at this writing holds the office of major of the Third Illinois Regiment, commanding the first battalion. During the long period of his connection with this fraternity he has been promoted by successive steps from one position of prominence to another,

is a graduate of the Joliet high school, is now a student in St. John's Military College at Delafield, Wis. The younger son, Mortimer, is with his father.

**A**LBERT G. BECKWITH, a retired farmer residing in Plainfield, was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., October 8, 1816. His father, Dudley, a native of New Hampshire, learned the blacksmith's trade there, and, after his marriage to Wealthy Brockway, he removed to New York. For many years he followed his trade in St. Lawrence County. In October, 1835, he came west to Illinois, settling in Plainfield, where he built the first blacksmith's shop in the town. For years he carried on his trade in this village, having in his old age the assistance of his son, our subject, in his work. In politics he was a Republican. During the war of 1812 he served in the American army, being assigned to duty along the St. Lawrence River. His death occurred April 30, 1871, when he was eighty-two years of age. Though reared in the Baptist faith (his father being a minister in that denomination) he became a member of the Congregational Church and an active worker in that cause. His wife, who died at seventy-five years, was like himself a faithful Christian and an active Congregationalist. Of their two children the younger, Adaline, married Samuel Pratt and died when fifty-four years of age.

Mr. Beckwith is certainly entitled to be called a pioneer of Illinois, as it has been sixty-six years since he came to this state. When he was eighteen, in 1834, he started west via wagon with two families, crossing through Canada to Detroit and thence to Chicago, where he arrived on the 11th of August. Going from there to Dunkley's Grove, twenty miles northwest of Chicago, he helped in the building of log houses and remained until November 1. Winter came on and he was without money, so he walked back to Chicago, fording several streams en route. Though he started early in the morning dark had fallen be-

fore he reached his destination. The howling of the wolves could plainly be heard and the loneliness of the scene could be imagined better than described. When he reached the town he secured employment in putting up a small building. His next job was in the pinery among the Indians; he remained in the forest until April, meantime never seeing a white woman's face. The summer of 1835 he spent at Dunkley's Grove, meantime saving \$25, which he sent home to his father with the suggestion that he come west.

October, 1835, found our subject for the first time in Plainfield, where he built a shop and worked until 1836. He then returned to New York for his mother and sister, who had not accompanied his father west. On his return he rented a farm which he operated for several years, also working in a shop as a teamster and in other occupations. After he had been here for ten years he bought one hundred and sixty acres of wild land three miles northwest of Plainfield, to which he moved and which he improved. After three years he sold the place and bought one hundred and fifteen acres south of town, where he made valuable improvements and erected the necessary buildings. In 1892 he sold the farm, retired from active labors and settled in the village. Politically he has been active in local Republican affairs. He has been connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church for forty years, and his wife has been identified with the same denomination for sixty years.

In 1844 Mr. Beckwith married Louisa J. Foster, a sister of Giles D. Foster, in whose sketch her family history appears. She died in 1862, leaving two daughters, namely: Jane, a widow, living in Oklahoma; and Ellen, widow of Frank Andrews, of Florida. The second marriage of our subject took place November 28, 1864, and united him with Mrs. Helen (Hoag) Barney, who was born in Nashua, N. H., April 18, 1828, a daughter of Asahel and Sabria C. (Chessmore) Hoag. Her father, who was born in Henniker, N. H., August 2, 1795, accompanied his parents to Vermont when a child, and there learned the shoemaker's trade. When he was twenty-eight years old he returned to New Hampshire, settling



in Nashua, where he engaged in the mercantile business until 1830. His next removal was to Concord, N. H., where he bought land, built a shoe store and a printing house and printed thousands of Bibles. Failing health induced him in 1838 to seek a home in the west. Coming to Plainfield he bought a farm near the village and, improving the property, afterward made it his home. For years he served as road commissioner and school director and took an active part in local Republican politics. He was reared in the Quaker faith and always inclined toward the doctrines of that sect, though he did not keep his birthright in it. While in the east he became prominent in Masonry, and after settling in Illinois he assisted in organizing a blue lodge in Joliet. His life was fairly successful viewed from a financial standpoint. Viewed from a higher standpoint of usefulness and of good deeds done he was a citizen whose value was great and whose death might well be deplored. He died while he was visiting in California, August 10, 1870, overexertion in climbing a mountain in Mexico having led to his death. He was buried with Masonic honors.

The mother of Mrs. Beckwith was born in Washington, Vt., May 3, 1799, and died in Plainfield January 22, 1861, at the age of sixty-one years. She was a Congregationalist in religious connections. Of her seven children Royal M. and Oscar S. are deceased; Franklin, who was a successful school teacher here but is now deceased, was the first to be buried with Masonic honors in Plainfield; George W. has also passed from earth; Charles B. was fifth in order of birth; Harriet is the widow of Alexander Roberts, of Tustin, Cal.; and Mrs. Beckwith completes the family circle. She was ten years of age when her parents settled near Plainfield and consequently remembers the pioneer days of this locality. For five years she was a student in a young ladies' academy on Dearborn street, Chicago, and while there saw the first train of cars that ever came into Chicago. When twenty-three she became the wife of Milton Barney, a merchant of St. Paul, Minn. In the spring of 1860 he went to Colorado and for two years was

judge at Georgetown, where he also had important mining interests. While he was crossing the range he was lost and it is supposed he was murdered for his money, as he had just sold a claim and had the money with him. His only son, Royal S. Barney, is engaged in merchandising in Denver, Colo. By her second marriage Mrs. Beckwith had a daughter, Florence R., wife of Thomas W. Walker, of Mazon, Grundy County, Ill. Mr. Walker was born in Mazon April 16, 1859, and is a leading man of that place, being constable, school commissioner and holding other important positions.

**OLIN AUGUSTUS SAGE**, who is a member of a prominent pioneer family of Channahon Township, was born in the village of Channahon January 5, 1871, a son of Elizur W. and Sabrina (Eaton) Sage. He was one of five children, of whom four are now living. His oldest sister, Hattie I., is the wife of W. B. Davis, a farmer of this township; Helen S. married S. H. Holbrook, who is with the Butler Paper Company in Chicago; and Fannie E. is the wife of Allen V. Crisler, of Park Ridge, Ill. The father of this family was born in Rome, N. Y., in 1812, and was one of the seven children of Elisha and Prudence (Risley) Sage, the others of the family being Henry R., Elisha M., William C., Russell (the noted New York millionaire), Sallie and Fannie.

Elisha Sage was born in Cromwell, Conn., in 1779, a son of Elisha and Martha (Montague) Sage, and was one of a family of six sons and six daughters. His father, also a native of Cromwell, born in 1747, was a son of Amos and Rebecca (Wilcox) Sage, and was one of a family of five sons and three daughters. Amos Sage, born in Cromwell in 1722, was a son of Timothy and Margaret (Holibert) Sage. Timothy, who was born in Middletown, Conn., in 1678, was a son of David Sage, who was born in Wales in 1639 and emigrated to America in 1652, settling in



Middletown, of which he was one of the earliest pioneers. His first wife was Elizabeth Kirby and his second wife Mary Wilcox. From the second marriage descends this branch of the family.

When a youth our subject's father learned the carpenter's trade. By his first wife, who was Mary Willard, he had nine children, four now living, namely: Mary J., the widow of Charles Wignall, of Jenson, Ark.; Emily, wife of Henry Chadwick, of Batavia, Ill.; Elizur, of Channahon; and Leni, who married M. Schoonmaker, of Chicago Heights. In 1834 the father came to Illinois and settled in the village of Channahon, where he followed his trade for many years. In politics he was a Republican. For several years he served as a member of the school board. In his early years he was a very active worker in the Methodist Church.

In 1859, some years after the death of his first wife, Elizur W. Sage married Miss Eaton, a native of Morristown, Vt., and a daughter of Lathrop and Sabrina (Wood) Eaton, also natives of that state. Her grandfather, Abial Eaton, was born in Woodstock, Conn., October 19, 1770, settled at Morristown, Vt., in early life, and died there February 28, 1835; he married Seely Cooper. Lathrop Eaton was born at Morristown September 21, 1797, and engaged in farm pursuits throughout his active life. Among the offices he held were those of school director and justice of the peace. The Eaton family descends from John and Abigail Eaton, who came from England about 1635 in the ship "Elizabeth," and for two years lived at Watertown, near Boston, but removed from there to Dedham, Mass., where he died November 17, 1658. His son, John, was born at Watertown in 1636 and died in 1694. Next in line of descent was Thomas, born July 23, 1675, a blacksmith, who lived for a short time in Roxbury and in 1703 moved to Woodstock. He died at Ashford, Conn., August 14, 1748. His son, David, born at Woodstock, July 21, 1706, was a farmer and made his home at Ashford, where he died about 1777. He was three times married and had several children by each marriage. Josiah and David, sons by

his first wife, were soldiers in the Revolutionary war. Ephraim, also a son by the first marriage, was the next in line of descent. He was born October 2, 1739, and spent some time on a farm near Woodstock. Ten years after his marriage to Eunice Sanger he removed to Hinsdale, N. H., and probably died there. His son, Abial, was born at Woodstock October 19, 1770, and settled at Morristown, Vt. The next generation was represented by Lathrop Eaton, who married Sabrina Wood, February 13, 1825, and died November 8, 1854.

The education of our subject was obtained in common schools. After his father's death his mother removed to the farm where he now resides, and of this place he has had charge since he was fifteen years of age. In politics a Republican, he was elected highway commissioner on that ticket in the spring of 1897, and is now filling the office. His marriage, September 1, 1892, united him with Miss Daisy G. Whitmore, who was born and reared in Channahon, a daughter of Franklin and Eleanor (Ferris) Whitmore. They are the parents of three children, now living, Lester W., Ruth E. and Arthur.

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THOMAS W. SPROAT has resided on his present farm since 1890. During that year he came from Cook into Will County and purchased one hundred acres on Maple street, of which eighty acres is in New Lenox Township, where he has since made his home. The farm at that time was in a run-down condition, its buildings were old and its fences unsightly. Under his supervision a remarkable transformation had been effected in the appearance of the place, which now ranks with the best in the township. In 1893 a substantial and large barn was built, and four years later a fine residence was erected, while other improvements have been made from time to time. In addition to general farming he has engaged in raising cattle and has also carried on a dairy business.

The father of our subject, John Sproat, was born in Scotland, and after he was married came to America about 1846, settling near Geneva, in Seneca County, N. Y. In 1854 he came west to Illinois, spending a year in Hadley, Will County. In 1849 he moved to Black Oak (now Oaklawn), Cook County, where he has since successfully followed farming, but is now, at seventy-eight years, somewhat retired from active business cares. Since the organization of the Republican party he has voted for its principles and supported its candidates in local and general elections. On a question of politics there is never any doubt where to find him; he is squarely and openly for protection of home industries, for sound money and for expansion. By his marriage to Elizabeth McCullah, of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, he had four children, namely: Thomas W.; Ellen, wife of Chester H. Marr; Mary E., who married James Crandall; and John R., a farmer in New Lenox Township.

Thomas W. Sproat was born in Seneca County, N. Y., August 24, 1851. He was a small child when the family settled in Illinois, and he passed the years of youth in Cook County, where his education was obtained in the public schools. He gained his knowledge of agriculture by working on his father's farm, and he continued to reside in Cook County until his removal to his present property. Like his father he is a staunch Republican, and like him, he has never aspired to public office, but aids the party in every way possible and assists his friends who are candidates for office. May 12, 1880, his marriage occurred to Miss Ruby Crandall, daughter of John Crandall, deceased, an old settler and wealthy farmer of Worth Township, Cook County. John Crandall married Jane McKenzie, daughter of William and Jeanette (Weir) McKenzie. The latter, a native of Scotland, is yet living at Worth, aged ninety-one years, and is in full possession of all her faculties. Mr. and Mrs. John Crandall were the parents of seven children: James A.; Harriet J., wife of Benjamin Crandall; Mrs. Ruby Sproat; Mrs. Mary Biedenkopf; Daniel L.; John (deceased); and Ellen J., at home. Mr. and Mrs. Sproat are the parents of

five children, namely: Jessie May, wife of Edward Blee; Frank Edwin, who died aged ten months; Laura Ella, John Franklin and Alfred Leroy. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal Church of New Lenox.

ERWIN C. MORGAN, a farmer and stock-raiser of Wesley Township, residing on section 4, has spent his entire life on his present farm, and was born here September 13, 1854. His father, Benjamin F. Morgan, was a native of Herkimer County, N. Y., born April 2, 1811, and continued to reside in that county until his removal to Illinois. The year 1840 found him in Will County, where he settled on section 4, Wesley Township. The following year he brought his family west and established his permanent home here. The land on which he settled was raw and wild, with scarcely a furrow turned in its soil. He cleared the eighty acres, placed it under cultivation, and devoted it to general farm pursuits and to stock-raising. Later he bought another eighty-acre tract. He was always interested when improvements in the township were proposed. He filled a number of local offices, to which he was elected on the Republican ticket. While he never attained wealth, yet at the time of his death, in 1882, he left a valuable farm and other property, which represented the results of his labors during an active portion of his seventy-one years. He married Elizabeth Sternberg, who was born in New York and died in Will County in 1861. Of their four children, Erie F., is living in Chicago; Philip C. is deceased; Erwin C. was third in order of birth; and Sidney S. was the youngest. After the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan our subject's father was a second time married, choosing as his wife Betsey E. Gould, a native of this county. By that marriage a daughter was born, May E., now the wife of Irving F. Lowell, of Rochester, N. Y.

When a boy our subject attended public school.



Like most boys, he was more fond of play than of study, and the best education he has gained has come from contact with the world in the school of experience, as he always keeps well posted on topics of importance. His life has been quietly and busily passed on the old homestead. He has charge of two farms and makes a specialty of raising grain and stock. On his place he has made a number of good improvements, which prove him to be a man of thrift and energy. In politics a Republican, he has been active in local party matters. From 1879 to 1881 he was town clerk. In 1883-84 he served as town collector, and again in 1892 and 1898 as town clerk. At this writing he is clerk of the school board. His various positions he has filled with fidelity, showing that he is a good citizen, alive to the needs of the township. In 1880 he was united in marriage with Fannie M., daughter of Henry H. Jones, of this township. They have an only child, Bessie V.

**WILLIAM F. KEITH.** Few of the citizens of Elwood have been identified with its history for so long a period as Mr. Keith and none has been more influential or progressive. In the fall of 1863 he purchased a small mercantile business in the town, which then contained only three dwellings and several shanties. From that day to this he has been foremost in enterprises for the upbuilding of the village. He prepared the charter for the town and after it was incorporated, by a special act of the legislature, he was made police magistrate. A number of times he has been chosen to serve as town trustee, and twice he was president of the board. In 1866 he was commissioned notary public by Governor Yates, and has since held the office, by successive appointment. He is also serving his fourth term as justice of the peace. In the building up of schools and churches he has taken a leading part. In fact, every movement for the benefit of the community receives his co-opera-

tion and aid. During 1868 he disposed of his general merchandise and, erecting a business block, opened a drug store, which he conducted personally for years. He is still a member of the drug firm of W. F. Keith & Son, but in 1894 practically turned over the management of the business to his son. Besides his other interests he has considerable business as an attorney, also handles real estate and acts as agent for fire insurance companies.

Near Rome, in Lewis County, N. Y., William F. Keith was born August 11, 1827, a son of John T. and Maria (Miller) Keith, of whose three children he alone survives. His father was educated for the ministry and became a member of the Methodist conference, in which he continued until, through the failure of his health from overwork, he was obliged to go south and remain until he regained his strength. His wife died while he was pastor at Mount Morris, and he died shortly after his return from the south. His father, William Keith, a native of Easton, Mass., was a minister in New York City, where he died at the age of thirty-four years. He married Sarah Tibbetts, a member of an old family of Rome, N. Y. The Keith family descended from three brothers who came to this country in an early day to escape religious persecution in their home country, Scotland. It is supposed that they settled in Bridgeport, Mass. The mother of our subject was orphaned at an early age and was taken into the home of an older brother, Isaac Miller. She was born in Connecticut, where her ancestors were early settlers.

At the time of his mother's death our subject was ten years of age. He was given a home with his grandmother Keith in Lewis County, N. Y., but after two years went to live with an uncle in Buffalo. His education was obtained in the common schools of the latter city and at Rich Academy, Attica, N. Y. When eighteen years of age he went to Cattaraugus County, N. Y., and began his apprenticeship as carpenter and builder, studying the principles of architecture. In 1848 he married Miss Rachael Mackey, daughter of David Mackey, who held many offices of trust in Cattaraugus County and was a



successful farmer. His ancestors settled in that region when the entire country was a dense forest, through which roads had not yet been opened. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Keith, of whom the daughter, Ada, is deceased. The son, Clarence A., is a general merchant in the village of Cattaraugus.

Hoping that a change of climate would benefit his wife's health, in 1856 Mr. Keith came to Illinois. He settled at Naperville, where his uncle, Aylmer Keith, was a banker and prominent business man. However, his wife was not improved by the change and in a few months he returned with her to New York state, where she died. Leaving his children with her parents, in the fall of 1857 he again came to Naperville. During his first visit there he had been chosen architect for the Naperville bank and superintended the construction of the building. On his return he formed a partnership with a cousin and established a notion and confectionery store in Naperville. One year later his older cousin, who was cashier of the Naperville bank, sold out and removed to Twelve Mile Grove, Will County, where he purchased a farm and embarked in sheep-raising. After a year, however, he sold out and went to Joliet, where, with Mr. Keith, he embarked in the drug business. In 1860 the two went to Pike's Peak and established a saw-mill business. Seven months later they returned to Joliet, and soon afterward sold the drug business. In 1861 Charles W. Keith, the cousin, formed a company of artillery, of which he was made captain. Our subject enlisted in the Nineteenth Illinois Infantry and was made a member of the regimental band, which was organized in Lockport. He was sent to Nashville and Murfreesboro, Tenn. During the winter he was taken ill and sent to the hospital at Elizabethtown, Ky., where, as soon as he recovered sufficiently, he was appointed apothecary. In the spring of 1863 another illness caused him to be returned to his regiment at Nashville, where he was discharged and sent home, but for a year or more he remained an invalid.

In the spring of 1863 Charles W. Keith came to Elwood and purchased a farm, and our subject

made his home with him for a time. As soon as he was able to engage in business he opened a store at Elwood, and here he has since been a prominent business man. In politics he is a Democrat, and for two years he served as deputy county treasurer under Treasurer Donahue and eight years under Mr. Spangler. He is identified with the Presbyterian Church and for ten years served as an elder. In 1866 he married Miss Hannah T. Leverich, who was born in Waterford, Pa. To their union three children were born, viz.: William H., who is chief clerk and cashier in the freight department of the Chicago & Alton Railroad in Joliet; Edward E., who has charge of the drug business in Elwood; and Eva M., who is with her parents.

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**R**OBERT WHITLEY, head miller in the large mills of Norton & Co., at Lockport, was born in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England, in 1831. When fifteen years of age he began an apprenticeship to the miller's trade in a large mill at Wakefield, where he served for six years and afterward worked for wages. In the fall of 1854 he sailed for America on the "Harvest Queen," which did not complete the voyage until seven weeks had been spent on the ocean. Meantime cholera had appeared on the ship and eighty-two passengers had fallen victims of the plague. From New York City Mr. Whitley came west to Illinois. He settled in Oswego, near Aurora, where he engaged in the milling business for nine years. Although he was unfamiliar with the customs of our country he was quick to learn and soon was able to compete with men of our own nationality. Being industrious and painstaking his work was satisfactory to all concerned.

From Oswego Mr. Whitley went to Chicago as a workman in a mill. In a short time he came to Plainfield and took charge of a mill. Two years later the mill was sold, and at the same time (1866) he came to Lockport as a miller in

the Norton mills. From that year to this he has been connected with this industry, which is one of the largest of its kind in the west. In 1871 he was sent to assume the management of the company's large mill near the Madison street bridge in Chicago, where he remained for a year. In January, 1872, he was given charge of the mill in Lockport, which was then a small plant employing few men and turning out only a small amount of flour. During the years that have since elapsed he has witnessed the growth of the mill to its present enormous proportions, and its present prosperity is due not a little to his wise oversight. He resides in Lockport and owns a farm of one hundred and twenty acres three miles west of town, which represents the earnings of his active years.

Prior to leaving England Mr. Whitley married Miss Sarah Loryman, of Wakefield. Seven children were born to their union, but two of these died in childhood, and Christopher died when twenty-seven years of age. The older of the living sons is Noah, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. The daughters are Maria, wife of Nicholas Pitts, a miller in Lockport; and Ruth, wife of E. W. Ray, of Anacortes, Wash. The younger son, Robert, is a miller by trade, but at this time is engaged in surveying with his brother.

Since becoming a citizen of the United States Mr. Whitley has taken an interest in public and political affairs. He was a warm admirer of Lincoln, and since the latter was president has voted the Republican ticket. In his desire to provide his children with every advantage possible he did not forget his duty to the community, but has kept closely identified with the educational interests of the town, and the schools here owe not a little of their excellence to his untiring efforts in their behalf. At this writing he is president of the school board, and for nine years he was a member of the board of school trustees. He has also served as an alderman of Lockport. For thirty-two years he has been a member of Lockport Lodge No. 538, A. F. & A. M., of which he was master much of the time for a quarter of a century. He has also been connected with the

chapter and commandery at Joliet for twenty-five years, being among the oldest members of the same. Any enterprise calculated to benefit his city is sure of his co-operation and aid, for he has the interests of the place at heart and takes a just pride in its advancement.

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**H**ENRY GOTTSCHALG, who resides at No. 411 Collins street, Joliet, was born in Joliet Township in 1862, and has spent his entire life in this county, devoting his attention to agricultural pursuits. His father, August, a native of Saxony, Germany, learned the shoemaker's trade in his youth and followed it for some time in his native land, where he also worked as a stone mason. In accordance with the national custom he served his time in the German army. In June, 1847, he came to the United States, proceeding direct to Joliet, at that time a small village in the midst of an unimproved farm region. Soon after his arrival he purchased twenty acres three miles east of Joliet, on Maple street, in Joliet Township. The land was unimproved, and was practically in its primeval condition. He set himself to the task of clearing and cultivating the place, erecting needed buildings and fences, and making such improvements as his means rendered possible. He continued to make his home on the same place until 1892, when advancing years with their attendant infirmities caused him to retire from active labors. Having met with success in his enterprises he was able to spend his declining days in the enjoyment of a competency that had been justly earned and merited. From time to time he had added to his possessions until he was the owner of four hundred and twelve acres in this county and two hundred and twenty acres in Nebraska, in addition to city property; and this large acreage was remarkable when it is remembered that he came to America with little means. He died in Joliet October 2, 1898, when almost seventy-six years of age. His wife, who bore the maiden



name of Dora Ford, was born in Saxony, Germany, and died in Joliet July 22, 1898, at the age of seventy-three years. Seven children born to their union are now living, namely: Amiel and Osear, who are farmers in Nebraska; Matilda, wife of Louis Huff; Lillia, who married C. C. Colby; Henry; John, of Joliet; and Augusta, who is the wife of Henry Rub.

The education of our subject was acquired in the country schools of this county. Familiar with farm work from his youth he naturally selected agriculture for his life occupation. In 1889 he began independent farming on the old Berger farm in New Lenox Township, at first renting the place, but in 1894 purchasing it, and he continued to reside there for some years, engaging in the raising of cattle and horses, in addition to general farming. All of the improvements on the place were made under his personal supervision. He built the residence, which is a comfortable farm house, and also put up other buildings as needed. In February, 1899, he moved from the farm into the city, in order to give his children the educational advantages he desired for them. He has never been active in politics, although he keeps posted concerning the questions brought before our country for solution, and in his opinions inclines toward Republican doctrines.

The marriage of Mr. Gottsehalg took place in 1889 and united him with Maggie, daughter of Adam Meyer, a resident of Troy Township. They have four children, Ivy Augusta, Estella Ida, Elmer A. and Carl August. The family are connected with the Lutheran Church.

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**ARTHUR C. CLEMENT.** The founder of the Clement (or Clements, as it was then spelled) family in America was Robert Clements, Jr., who came from England thirty years after the sailing of the "Mayflower" and settled in Haverhill, Mass. He was one of three trustees to whom the town was deeded by

the Indians. In the subsequent years he became a man of great influence in the village, where his father and family joined him and where he continued to reside until death. Benaiah Clement, a descendant of Robert, Jr., spent much of his life in Windsor, Vt., where he was born; he died at forty-nine years of age. His son, Charles, was born in Windsor in 1810. In the spring of 1833 he came west on horseback, and after a short time in Peoria, Ill., settled in Joliet, where he bought one acre, including what is now the northwest corner of Bluff and Exchange streets. He built the first frame building in the town, which he sold later. With Mr. Wileox he engaged in the mercantile business for two years. In company with that gentleman, Mr. Allen and others he established the Joliet *Courier* and published the same in Merchants' Row on North Bluff street. In the possession of our subject is the first impress of the first edition of this paper, which bears the date of April 20, 1839.

On account of ill health Mr. Clement returned to New England and temporarily retired from business pursuits. About 1860 he returned to Joliet and started a dry-goods store on the corner of Jefferson and Ottawa streets, where the Will County Bank now stands. In 1863 he sold out and engaged in loaning money on real-estate and farm lands. In politics he voted with the Democrats, and on that ticket was many times elected to the city council. He died in this city December 11, 1878. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Cordelia Wileox, was born in Elbridge, N. Y., in 1825, and died in Mayville, that state, in 1893. She was a daughter of Loami Wileox, a farmer, and a sister of the gentleman who engaged in business with her husband. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Clement consisted of a son, Arthur C., and a daughter, Alice C., Mrs. Chaney, of Chautauqua, N. Y.

In the first frame house built in Joliet the subject of this notice was born January 16, 1852. He was reared in Chester, N. H., until ten years of age, and afterward studied in the Joliet public schools. In 1868 he entered Cornell University, from which he graduated in 1872 with the degree of B. S. He began the study of law in the



office of Olin & Phelps and later studied in the Chicago College of Law for a year, being admitted to the bar at Mount Vernon, Ill., in 1875. Entering upon practice he was a member of the firm of Phelps & Clement until 1878, when his father died and he, as administrator, settled up the estate and continued the loan business started by his father. In 1885 he formed the firm of Clement & Oliver, dealers in real estate and loans, but that connection was dissolved in 1891, and he continued alone for some years. In 1897 the firm of Clement & Chaney was formed, and this partnership continues to the present time. He has built and improved considerable real-estate. He built the Clement block and remodeled and enlarged it so that it now contains eight stores, with a frontage of one hundred and thirty-two feet on Ottawa street and eighty-eight feet on Jefferson street. He also built his residence at No. 300 South Eastern avenue. Besides his other interests he is a stockholder in the Will County National Bank, in which he has been a director. For one year he held the office of president of the Silver Cross hospital, filling the position at the time the hospital was being erected. A charter member of the Union Club, he was for six years a member of its board of directors and also served as treasurer. He also held membership in the Stone City Club.

In Auburn, N. Y., Mr. Clement married Georgia, daughter of Alfred Smith, a large farmer of that place. They are the parents of two children: Charles, a student in the Northwestern Medical College; and Laura, a high school student.

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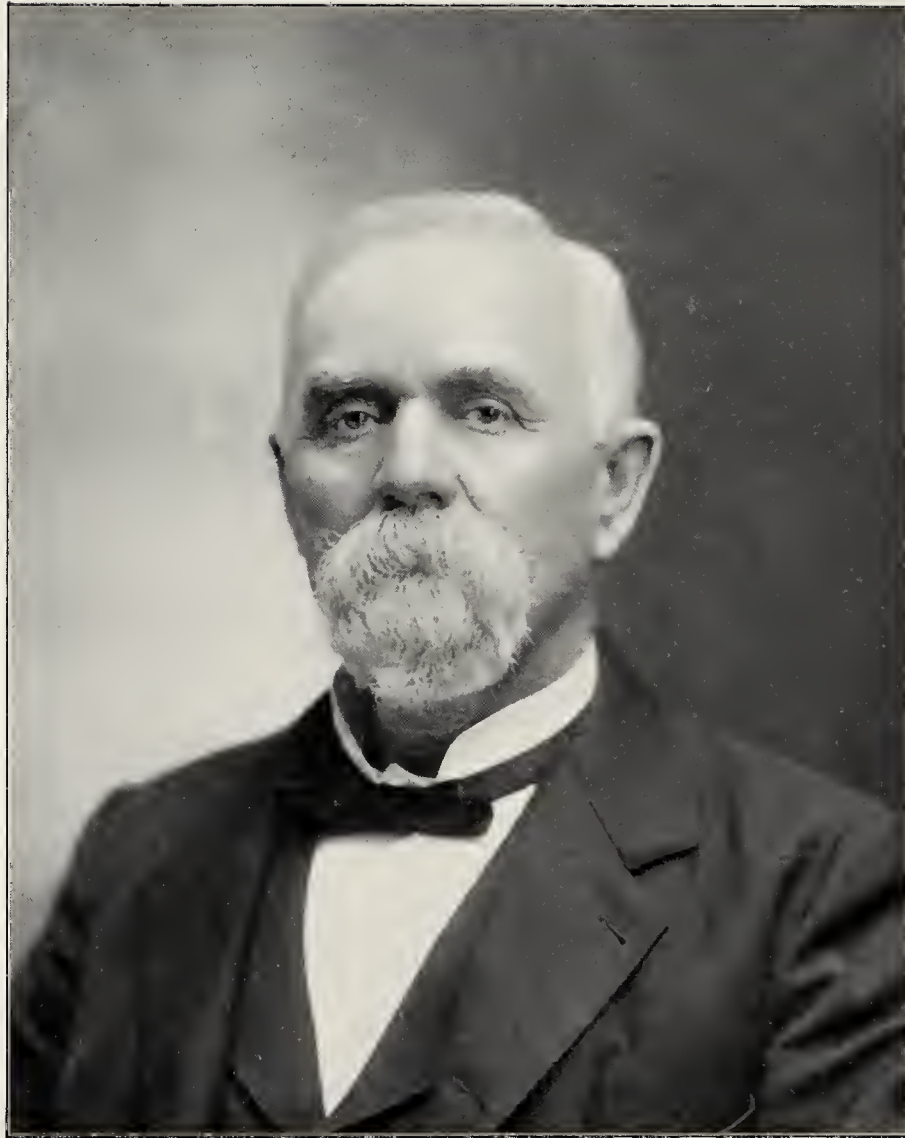
**C**HARLES N. SPRAGUE, a member of an honored pioneer family of this county, owns and occupies a beautiful home in Joliet. He was born in Dupage Township, June 19, 1847, and is a son of Thomas J. Sprague, deceased, whose sketch will be found elsewhere in this volume. Alternating attendance at the district schools with work on the home farm, he grew

to a vigorous, robust manhood, fitted to enter upon the responsibilities of life. When he was twenty-three years of age he married and began for himself, purchasing a farm and devoting his time to its improvement. Later he became interested in a creamery, which he operated in conjunction with his father, meantime renting his farm and making his home in Joliet. He continued to be connected with the creamery until February 1, 1897, when he disposed of his interest in the plant. Since 1885 he has resided in Joliet, having at that time traded his farm for property in the city. While his home is here, he has for a few years been engaged in the dairy and stock business near Marseilles, La Salle County, Ill., where in 1897 he purchased a farm of five hundred and thirty-six acres. He makes a specialty of breeding Shorthorn Durham cattle, and has found stock-raising a profitable adjunct of general farming. For a number of years he conducted a milk business in Joliet, running several milk wagons and having a good route. At this writing he owns stock in the Joliet Limestone Company, an enterprise that is proving quite remunerative.

The marriage of Mr. Sprague took place November 25, 1869, and united him with Miss Alice C. Killmer, who was born in Dupage Township, her father, Reuben W. Killmer, having been one of the pioneers of the township. They are the parents of three children now living, namely: Hattie M., a graduate of the Joliet high school and an accomplished young lady; Mabel, who is a student in the Joliet schools; and Thomas K.

Though reared in the Democratic faith, Mr. Sprague has not allied himself with any party, but maintains independent views and votes for the best man. For one year he served as assessor of Dupage Township, and for five terms he served as town clerk. He was made a Mason in Lockport Lodge, No. 538, A. F. & A. M., in 1872, and is now connected with Mount Joliet Lodge. With his family he holds membership in the Presbyterian Church, and he has officiated as one of the trustees of the congregation.





*Simon Woodruff*



## SIMEON WOODRUFF.

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**S**IMEON WOODRUFF was born in Watertown, N. Y., October 21, 1833, a son of Luther and Sarah (Kyes) Woodruff, who were also natives of that city. His paternal grandfather, Simeon Woodruff, was born in Connecticut and settled on a farm near Watertown, where he died at eighty years of age. The maternal grandfather, Aaron Kyes, also a native of Connecticut, settled in New York, where he followed farm pursuits and also engaged in the cooper's trade. In 1845 Luther Woodruff brought his family to Illinois and settled on the southwest quarter of section 2, Joliet Township, now adjoining the city limits. He died in Joliet in 1891, when eighty-seven years of age. His wife died in this city in 1887, when seventy-five. They had two children, Simeon and Mary F., the latter of whom married C. H. Nichols, of Joliet.

After coming to Illinois our subject resided on the home farm until 1859. In the spring of that year he left for Pike's Peak, determining to seek his fortune in the gold fields of the mountain regions. He outfitted with ox-teams and crossed the Missouri at St. Joe, thence took the Platte route across the plains. As he proceeded farther he met large numbers of people returning, discouraged and disappointed, having met with hard luck in their efforts to find gold. He and his friends were therefore drawn from their original intentions and decided to pursue their way to California. The five men, with three yoke of cattle and six months' provisions, went up the Sweetwater route, crossed the mountains to

Downeyville, Cal., reaching that place after a four months' trip from St. Joe, and at once began placer mining.

At the time of the Civil war Mr. Woodruff was still in California. In 1864 he enlisted for three years (or during the war) in Company K, Seventh California Infantry, and was sent from Presidio to Arizona, where his company was stationed at Fort McDowell. They located the site and erected the first adobe buildings there, being the first soldiers in that part of the territory; this fort was inspected by General McDowell while they were there. They remained there until April, 1866, when they were relieved by regulars and went back to San Francisco, where they were mustered out of the service. Mr. Woodruff then resumed mining. He remained in California until 1875, when, after an absence of sixteen years, he returned to Illinois. This journey was made in a manner far different from the first one. Then, he had traveled with ox-teams; now, he came via the railroad, enjoying all of the conveniences of rapid travel and attending comforts. When he arrived in Will County he engaged in farming at the old homestead, and continued there until 1888, when he embarked in the real-estate business in Joliet. He has been interested in the laying out of subdivisions to the city. Woodruff & Nichols and Fuller & Woodruff laid out subdivisions from his father's homestead, the latter firm platting eighty acres on section 23. Mack, Woodruff & Cowles platted eighty-five acres on section 26, and Fuller &

Woodruff laid out the Forest park addition of forty acres, giving two and one-half acres for the site of the Forest park school. He has personally laid out Dewey Bluffs, comprising thirty acres. With his sister he gave the site for the Windsor wire mill. Few residents of Joliet are more familiar than he with the real-estate business; he is thoroughly posted concerning values and has conducted his enterprises in a manner indicating good ability on his part.

From the organization of the Republican party in 1856, when he cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont, Mr. Woodruff has been a supporter of the Republican party and believes firmly in its platform and principles. Fraternally he is connected with the Patriotic Order Sons of America. He was married in Milwaukee, Wis., to Miss Eunice W. Whitney, who was born in New York and accompanied her parents to Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff reside on Macomber avenue.

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SILAS I. PARKER, a well-known citizen of Channahon, was born in Franklin County, Vt., November 14, 1841, a son of Charles C. and Elizabeth (DeMeritt) Parker. He was one of eight children, all but one of whom are still living, viz.: Emily M., wife of George Knapp, of North Menominee, Wis.; Samuel D. E., a stockman of Deadwood, S. Dak.; Ann Jeannette, of Menominee, Wis.; Silas I.; Orin, a farmer of Connersville, Wis. George S., who is engaged in agricultural pursuits at the same place; and Genevieve, of Menominee. The father was born in Montgomery, Vt., September 5, 1814, and the mother was born in New Hampshire, November 7, 1813. The former learned the carpenter's trade in youth. In 1843 he removed to Wisconsin and settled in Jefferson County, where he followed his trade. In 1858 he removed to a farm he had purchased some years before, and there he remained until his sons had grown to manhood and left home. About 1870 he sold the

place and settled in Aztalan. In 1877 he removed to Dunn County and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, where he remained until his death, March 31, 1881. His politics were Republican. For some years he served as collector of his township. He was an active worker in the Methodist Church, where he long served as a class-leader, and also took an interest in the Sunday-school. His wife was a daughter of Davis and Abigail (Emerson) DeMeritt.

At the outbreak of the Civil war our subject became an enthusiastic adherent of the Union. August 29, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, Fifth Wisconsin Infantry, and went as a recruit to his regiment, which he joined on the battlefield of Antietam. He took part in that battle and later was at Fredericksburg. In the battle of Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863, he was wounded and left for dead on the field. However, he was found to be still alive and was taken to the field hospital, where he remained a week. Then, with others, he was taken to Washington and placed in the Campbell hospital. Afterward his father took him home, he having been given a thirty-days' furlough. At the expiration of the time he went to Camp Randall hospital at Madison, Wis., where he was honorably discharged from the service October 27, 1863.

Upon receiving his discharge, Mr. Parker returned home. As soon as he was able he began to work at the wagon-maker's trade, opening a shop and hiring an expert workman, from whom he learned the trade. He also engaged with his father in the saw-mill and threshing business. In the summer of 1866 he went to Fort Larned, Kans., and worked as a carpenter in the government employ. March 14, 1869, he married Melinda S. Knapp, and afterward worked for a few months in Kansas. On his return east he settled in Will County, Ill., and for nine years farmed his father-in-law's farm. In 1879 he removed to Missouri and bought a farm in Miller County, but after a year rented his place and engaged in contracting and building in Eldon, also carried on a lumber business and a flour and feed store. In 1890 he sold his farm and in the spring of the next year returned to Channahon, where



he has since resided. Of recent years he has given his attention principally to farming, although he has also to some extent engaged in carpentering. In politics he is a Republican. He and his wife are both active workers in the Methodist Church and he holds the office of trustee in the same. He is a member of Burden Post No. 494, G. A. R., in which he is officer of the day. He and his wife had but one child, a daughter, Almira E., who was born June 29, 1874, but died in infancy.

Mrs. Parker is a daughter of Dr. Ira O. and Almira (Joslyn) Knapp, the former one of the earliest settlers of this section. He was born in Barre, Vt., February 12, 1810. In 1833 he graduated in medicine. On the 14th of July of the same year he married Miss Joslyn, after which he and his bride started for the west, arriving in Will County in October. During their trip they stopped one night in Chicago and slept in the first frame house ever built in that town. On reaching Will County they spent a few days with the doctor's uncle in Plainfield, thence came to Channahon. He was the first physician in this part of the county and his professional calls came from far and near, but the large amount of night work and the long drives soon told on his health, and about 1848 he gave up his practice. He then settled on a farm which he had bought shortly after his arrival in the county. Here he spent his remaining years. His integrity and benevolence won him the esteem and love of all who knew him. In politics he was a Whig, then a Republican, and finally a Prohibitionist. He was an enthusiastic worker for good government, but was not an office seeker. In 1844 Governor Ford appointed him justice of the peace, which position he filled for some years. He was a prominent worker in the Methodist Church, in which for years he was trustee and steward. He was one of five persons to form the first class in Channahon and was the last of the five to depart this life. He passed away January 6, 1894. His parents, Mason and Nabby (Tryon) Knapp, were probably natives of Vermont. The former was born February 2, 1785, and died October 17, 1871; the latter was born

August 20, 1788, and died June 7, 1862. Mason Knapp enlisted in the war of 1812, but never took part in any engagement; he was marching to the engagement at Plattsburg when the war closed. In 1852 he and his wife came to Illinois, where they spent their remaining years with their son.

The wife of Dr. Knapp was a daughter of Luke and Lydia (Graves) Joslyn, and was born January 26, 1810, at Waitsfield, Vt. To her marriage the following-named children were born: George L., born July 8, 1834, now of North Menominee, Wis.; Orin S., born October 14, 1836, now engaged in the saw-mill business at Loveland, Colo.; Melinda S., born August 24, 1838; Solon, born January 6, 1842, now a salesman at Emerson, Ala.; Lydia J., born March 14, 1845, and died October 11, 1846; and Lydia J. (2d), born January 22, 1847, and died October 21, 1847. There was also an adopted daughter, Sarah M. Goss, who is now the wife of James Barry, of Elk Grove, S. Dak.

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**C**HARLES A. McKENNA, manager of the Caton stock farm in Plainfield Township, has been with Judge J. D. Caton and his son since he was eighteen years of age. Beginning in the employ of the judge, he proved himself to be diligent, faithful and energetic, and was given increased responsibilities as he grew older. Since 1885 he has had the management of the Caton farm of thirteen hundred and fifty acres, which is the largest farm in the state that has nothing but tillable land. Under preceding managers efforts had been made to introduce satisfactory drainage, but all failed. Under his supervision, however, tiling was proved to be thoroughly practicable, and one hundred and fifty miles of tiling were laid. Water is furnished by an artesian well twenty-five hundred and fifty feet deep. Since the death of Judge Caton, in July, 1895, Mr. McKenna has been retained as manager for the judge's son, Arthur J. Caton, of Chi-



cago. As the latter visits the place only once or twice a year, the entire responsibility of the work lies with the manager, and to him may be attributed the fine improvements noticeable on the property, and the fact that the farm turns in to the owner a large annual revenue.

A portion of the land is devoted to the raising of farm products. About twenty-three thousand bushels of corn are sold annually, while the oats, averaging twenty-five thousand bushels, are used for feed. A specialty is made of stock-raising, in which department of agriculture Mr. McKenna has shown unusual judgment and intelligence. There are on the place about two hundred and fifty head of horses, many of which are fine trotters; also one hundred head of cattle, some of these being of the very finest grades; and about four hundred and fifty hogs, the specialty being the Poland-China breed. To assist in the management of the place, from eighteen to twenty-five men are hired. There are seven houses on the farm and sixteen barns, besides other substantial farm buildings, and steam engine, thresher, corn sheller, etc. During the harvest season six binders are operated.

Politically Mr. McKenna has never identified himself with any party, but maintains independence in opinions and views. His attention has been so closely given to his farm work that he has no leisure for official positions, and although twice nominated for the office of supervisor, he declined to accept the nominations. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. By his marriage, in 1885, to Miss Nora Dunford, of Ottawa, Ill., he has seven children: William, Anna, John, Laura, Catherine, Margaret and Mary.

low-countrymen. He at once gathered together those of the Catholic faith, bought a lot on Chicago street, and erected a handsome stone edifice, which was dedicated in October of the same year. In 1895 he built St. Joseph's school in the same block, an institution that now has four rooms, with two hundred pupils, to whom instruction is given in English and in the Slovenic language, the Sisters of St. Francis being in charge of the work. In 1898 a neat parsonage was completed, and during the same year a place on Scott street was bought for the Sisters of St. Francis who are in charge of the school. The bodies of the dead are laid to rest in a cemetery of five acres at Washington Heights, which was bought in 1894 and is known as St. Joseph's cemetery. The congregation of the church numbers two hundred families, representing two nationalities, Slovenians and Croats, the first-named largely preponderating. Among the societies are the Children of St. Mary, the Ladies' Altar Society, and four Slovenian and one Croatian benevolent society. This is also the headquarters of the Slovenic Catholic Union of the United States, the secretary and treasurer residing here.

In the city of Ljubljana, province of Krain, Austria, Father Sustersic was born January 21, 1864, a son of Casper and Jennie (Pecnik) Sustersic, natives of the same place and members of very old families of the province. His father, a farmer, owned the estate, "Bobencek," and died there at sixty-three years. Of their six children three are living, Father Sustersic being the eldest. When six years of age he began to attend school and at twelve he entered the gymnasium, where he completed his classical studies. When eighteen he entered the seminary at Ljubljana, the capital of Krain, where he studied philosophy and theology for four years. In 1886, at twenty-two years of age, he was ordained to the priesthood. Owing to the fact that he was under the stipulated age for admission to orders, it required a special dispensation from Pope Leo to make his ordination valid. He was ordained in St. Nicholas Cathedral at Ljubljana (or Laibach, as called in German) by Bishop (now Cardinal) Missia. For two years he was assistant pastor

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REV. F. S. SUSTERSIC, who was the first and has been the only pastor of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church of Joliet, came to this city in May, 1891, with instructions from the bishop to organize a congregation of his fel-

in the church at Smlednik and for three years he was stationed at Litija, from which place he came to the United States in 1891. Learning that many of his countrymen were in Joliet and had no priest of their mother tongue, and that Archbishop Feehan was desirous of securing a Slav priest, he at once secured the permission of his bishop to come to this city, and has since accomplished a gratifying work in bringing together and organizing a church of his own people. In all of his labors he has the hearty co-operation of his parishioners, who place the utmost confidence in his judgment and have learned to esteem him very highly as pastor and priest.

**M**OSSES G. DEMMOND. Connected prominently with the early history of this county is the name of Mr. Demmond. When he first came to Joliet, having made the long journey from the east via canal, lakes and wagon, it was in 1839, when the surroundings were those of the remote frontier. He has seen the development of the county from its primeval condition into a populous and wealthy region, and in the attainment of this result he has himself been no unimportant factor. His name occupies an honorable place among the industrious pioneers who did much for the upbuilding of this part of Illinois.

The Demmonds are an old family of New England, descended from Scotch ancestors. The grandfather of Mr. Demmond, who was the son of a Revolutionary soldier, was born in New York and removed from there to Worcester County, Mass., where he died. The father, Charles, also a native of New York, came west in 1839, arriving in Joliet on the 10th of July, accompanied by his family. He had traveled by wagon to Albany, thence by the Erie canal to Buffalo, from there on a steamer "Great Wester," to Chicago and thence by wagon to Joliet, the trip taking three weeks. By trade a builder, he followed contracting here until his death, in 1869,

at the age of sixty-eight years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Rebecca Holden, was born in Massachusetts and died in Joliet, in 1885, when eighty-two years of age. They were the parents of seven children, viz.: Mrs. Harriet Wilcox, who died in California; William C., of Joliet; Darwin D., who lives in Chicago; Moses G., of Joliet; F. E. and S. M., of Chicago; and Mary Rebecca, who is married and resides in Chicago.

The subject of this sketch was born in Rutland, Mass., July 1, 1831. Almost his entire life has been passed in the west and his education was acquired in western schools, which at that time were crude and inferior. At an early age he acquired, under his father, a good knowledge of carpentering. In 1850-51 he acted as chainman and flagman for a corps of surveyors on the Rock Island Railroad, and when the road was completed here he went to Iowa as rodman on the Muscatine branch. Returning to Joliet he married and afterward engaged in clerking, later for two years worked at carpentering with his father, and then settled upon Redmill farm, which he operated for his father-in-law, Henry D. Higinbotham. After a time he removed to Twelve Mile Grove, where he continued agricultural pursuits. In 1864 he moved into Joliet, where he took charge of the business interests of H. N. Higinbotham, of Chicago, superintending the management of his fifteen hundred acres of land in this county. He continued to act in this capacity until 1893, when illness obliged him in a measure to lay aside business cares. From 1890 to 1898 he resided on the old Higinbotham farm, but since the latter year has made his home at No. 1004 Cass street, Joliet.

A Democrat until 1880, since then Mr. Demmond has affiliated with the Republican party. For two years each he served as alderman from the first ward and police constable, also held the office of superintendent of streets of Joliet under Mayor W. A. Steele. During his residence in Wilton Township he was collector for two years and constable for a year. In the days when the street cars of Joliet were operated by mule power, he held the office of superintendent of the street



railway, continuing for two years until the road changed hands. In religious belief he is a Universalist, and fraternally holds membership with Matteson Lodge No. 175, A. F. & A. M.

At the old Higinbotham home on Cass street, March 18, 1856, occurred the marriage of Mr. Demmond and Miss Ann Eliza Higinbotham, who was born in this county, a daughter of the late Henry D., and sister of Harlow N. Higinbotham, of Chicago. They are the parents of six children, namely: Henry C., who is a constable in Joliet; Frank E., a tailor in this city; Mrs. Ella A. Park, of Joliet; Mrs. Mary Pasold and Mrs. Myra Porter (twins), the latter living in Kankakee; and Moses G., Jr., who is connected with the Fox Steel Company.

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JASPER Y. CUTLER, who since 1867 has owned and occupied a farm in Homer Township, was born in Burlington, Vt., April 25, 1825, a son of Lyman M. and Lucy (Hamilton) Cutler, natives of Connecticut and Vermont respectively. His father moved to Vermont when a young man, and from there went to Madison County, N.Y., thence to Erie County, Ohio, and in 1846 settled in Chicago, where he died in 1851, at sixty-one years of age. In the various localities where he resided he did much toward clearing and improving farm land, and at the same time he conducted a tanning business on a small scale. In politics he was a "rock-ribbed" Democrat, ever true to party principles. He married a daughter of David Hamilton, for years a successful farmer in Vermont. Mrs. Lucy Cutler died January 19, 1880, when eighty-one years of age. Of her eight children, five grew to maturity, viz.: Lyman G., who was born September 12, 1820, and died in Chicago, May 19, 1858; Edmund S., who was born April 14, 1823, and is now living in Denver, Colo.; Jasper Y.; Azro C., of Joliet, who was born September 13, 1827; and Lucy Ann, who was born October 25, 1830, and died July 16, 1852.

When the family moved from Vermont to New York our subject was two years of age. He was reared in New York and Ohio, and received a common-school education. With his brother, Lyman G., in 1844 he left Ohio and drove with a team to Peoria, Ill., where an uncle resided. In that city he was taken ill and was unable to engage in work of any kind for about six months. After partially regaining his health he secured employment in caring for horses in a stage stable. In July of the same year he took a stage-team and drove the stages through his section of Illinois, continuing with the same company for six years, meantime making a number of trips from St. Louis to Chicago. His next position was in a lumber-yard owned by Foss & Bros., in Chicago, where he was employed for two years. Through the influence of his employer, Mr. Foss, he was elected a constable for the city of Chicago, and he also served as deputy sheriff under William L. Church. For some years afterward, until 1860, he was a member of the Chicago police force, in which he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. When he first became connected with the force it had but twelve officers. At the time of the riot in Chicago, April 21, 1855, he was in the thickest of the fight and bore himself with such courage and fidelity that, in grateful appreciation of his services at the time, the citizens of Chicago afterward presented him with a gold medal.

In 1860 Mr. Cutler resigned as a police officer in order to accept a position with the government as steamboat inspector at the Chicago custom-house, where he remained until 1866. During the Civil war, being already in the government employ, he was ineligible to army service, but his loyalty to our country and his anxiety for the success of the Union cause led him to employ a substitute to enlist in his stead. In 1867 he removed from Chicago to this county, and purchased ninety acres in Homer Township, where he has since followed general farm pursuits. Here, as in Chicago, he has been interested in local matters. He has always been stanch in his allegiance to Republican principles, voting the straight ticket at every election. In the office of



highway commissioner he rendered efficient service. A friend of the public schools, he served as director for years, meantime promoting the cause of education in his locality. He was one of the organizers of the Homer Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of which he was a director for years, and the welfare of which he still has deeply at heart.

The marriage of Mr. Cutler, May 5, 1852, united him with Ann, daughter of John Felton, of Michigan. Five children comprise their family: Ella E., wife of Charles H. Peck; Carrie L., who married George Gilman; Frank J. and Charles N., who are farmers in Homer Township; and John F., who was born in 1878, and is still with his parents. The oldest son, Frank J., was born August 12, 1861, and married Hattie, a sister of George Gilman. They have one son, Ralph. A young man of enterprise and ability, he has become one of the prominent agriculturists of the township. He deals in market cattle and hogs and also owns seventy milch cows, making large shipments of milk every day to Chicago. For several years he served as collector, and at this writing he holds the office of highway commissioner. The second son, Charles N., born in 1872, married Lucy Young, and they have two children, Laura and an infant son.

**G**EORGE GOSS, who has been a business man of Joliet since 1864, was born at Würzburg-on-the-Main, Bavaria, Germany, August 27, 1838, a son of George and Elizabeth Goss, natives of the same place. He was the youngest of five children, and the only one to come to the United States. His father, who was the son of a soldier in the Napoleonic wars in Germany and Russia, was captain of the first steamboat on the Main and also on the Rhine, and continued at the head of the line until the company retired from business in 1870. His death occurred in 1880, when he was eighty years of age. His wife had died at the age of thirty-five years.

In 1854 our subject took passage at Bremen on the sailing vessel "North Wind," which arrived in New York after a voyage of twenty-nine days. Proceeding to Buffalo, he worked at the butcher's trade for a year there, and then spent a similar period in Milwaukee. In 1856 he went to Chicago, where he was employed as a butcher for two years. His next location was in Ottawa, where he carried on a business of his own. The year 1864 found him in Joliet, where he started a meat market on Joliet street, between Jefferson and Washington. However, he sold out in two months, and formed a partnership in the retail meat and produce business with Joseph Reichmann, opening a market on Chicago street near Jefferson. Later the market was moved across the street, where he continued business alone. He also built a double stone store building on Chicago street, across the alley from the Barber building. For two years or more he was a member of the firm of Goss & Adler, on Exchange, near Bluff street.

The present post-office building, at Nos. 113-115 Jefferson street, was built by Mr. Goss in 1893. It is a two-story building, 44x80 feet, the first floor of which is occupied by the post-office. In 1896 he bought the store at No. 405 Washington street, where he has a three-story building, 22x150. Of recent years he has carried on a wholesale meat business. He has a packing house in Joliet Township, two miles northeast of the city, where he carries on a rendering factory. He also conducts a wholesale business in hides, etc. Besides this business, he owns a small farm in Joliet Township. While he is now in prosperous circumstances, and has made a success of his business, yet he has met with his share of reverses. During the time he spent in Ottawa he lost almost everything through the absconding of a government contractor, and in 1873, when the panic came on, he lost the first two buildings he erected in Joliet. In politics he is a Republican, and in religion holds membership in St. John's Roman Catholic Church.

The marriage of Mr. Goss, in Ottawa, united him with Miss Anna Boersle, who was born in Dayton, Ill. They are the parents of six chil-

dren, the eldest of whom is his father's namesake and business partner. The others are Fred; Mrs. Minnie Mergel, of Chicago; Annie; Louisa, at home; and Mrs. Emma Kennedy, of Joliet.

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**HON. THOMAS J. KELLY.** Through his long and intimate connection with the business interests and public affairs of Joliet, Mr. Kelly has become well known to the residents of this city. In 1868 he established his present dry-goods business, having as a partner his brother Joseph A., under the firm name of Kelly Brothers. In 1875 the block he now occupies was built, and the following year he purchased his brother's interest, since which time he has conducted the business alone. While necessarily much of his time and thought are given to the management of his store, yet he has found leisure for other interests. He was trustee of the company that platted and laid out Boulevard Heights, and served as president of the South Joliet Land Company, that laid out South Joliet addition. He is also treasurer of the Mutual Loan and Building Association.

Politically Mr. Kelly voted with the Democrats until the candidacy of Samuel J. Tilden in 1876, when he became a Greenbacker. The tariff question led him to ally himself with the Republicans. After the St. Louis convention of 1896, not being in sympathy with the gold platform of the Republican party, he returned to the Democratic ranks, being a bimetallist in the broad sense of that word. He has been closely connected with politics in his city and county, and has frequently been chosen to occupy positions of trust. For two terms he was supervisor of Joliet Township, for two terms served as assistant supervisor, and for two terms held the chairmanship of the county board of supervisors, being chairman when the present court house was erected, and it was in no small measure due to his efforts that the substantial and commodious fireproof building was erected. In 1883 he was first elected mayor.

His service was so satisfactory that he was re-elected in 1885 and 1889, serving until 1891. During his administration the fire and police departments were organized, and street improvements of great value were made.

The Kellys are an old family of Trellick, County Tyrone, Ireland. Our subject's grandfather, Thomas Kelly, was a merchant of that town. One of his sons, Rev. John Kelly, became a Roman Catholic priest, and died in New Jersey. Two others, Eugene and Patrick, settled in California, where the latter died. Eugene, who crossed the ocean about 1834, spent some years in the mercantile business in St. Louis, and in 1849 went to California, where he became one of the largest merchants and bankers of his day. Later he was identified with the banking business in New York City, where he died in December, 1894. The oldest son, Edward, was for some years a merchant in Trellick. In December, 1847, he left Ireland on the sailer "Sea," which anchored in New York City in January, 1848. In the spring of the same year he came to Will County, Ill., and settled four miles south of Joliet, in Jackson Township, where he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and adjoining lands from Robert Duncan, an old settler of Joliet. For sixteen years he engaged in the cultivation of that place. He then sold it and bought a farm in the southern part of Lockport Township, where he improved a valuable tract of one-half section. He died there November 5, 1871, at the age of seventy-one years. His wife, who died in 1894, at the age of eighty-seven, was Rose, a daughter of Owen Curren, a farmer of County Tyrone, but during his last years a resident of Will County, where he and his wife died in old age. Edward and Rose Kelly had two sons, Thomas J., and Joseph A., of Joliet, and two daughters, Catherine and Bridget, of Chicago.

Accompanying his parents to this country, our subject remained in New York City for a year after they came west, and in 1849 he joined them on a farm in Will County. In 1854 he entered Notre Dame University at South Bend, Ind., where he studied for eighteen months. Later he spent two years at St. Mary's College,



Wilmington, Del. In 1860 he graduated from the Jesuit College in Montreal, after which he returned to the farm and remained there for seven years. He began in business in Wilmington in 1867, the following year moved to Joliet, and has since carried on a store on Jefferson street.

At Lockport, Ill., in 1868, Mr. Kelly married Mary, daughter of Patriek Fitzpatriek, who in 1832 came from Ontario to this county and settled on the west bluff. Mr. Kelly and his wife are faithful and prominent members of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, and he has contributed generously to its various charities. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and the Joliet Sharpshooters' Association. He is deeply interested in the welfare and progress of Joliet, and has given liberally of his time and influence to promote enterprises of undoubted value to the city.

**OLIVER S. CHAMBERLIN.** Among those who, through unaided exertions and the exercise of sound judgment, have risen from humble positions in youth to places of honor and influence among their fellow-citizens, may be mentioned Mr. Chamberlin, who for years was an enterprising business man and farmer of this county, but is now living retired at No. 1112 Cass street, Joliet. He was born in southeastern Canada, near Vermont, September 14, 1825, a son of Franklin and Rebecca (Leavitt) Chamberlin, natives of Waterford, Me., and Stoke, Vt. His paternal ancestors were from England and settled on the coast of New England during colonial days. The grandfather, John Chamberlin, a native of Waterford, engaged in business as proprietor of a packing house. After the close of the war of 1812 he moved his family into the dense woods of Canada East, one hundred miles from Montreal. Cutting down the timber, he "grubbed," cleared and improved a farm, and on it spent his remaining active years. Up to the time of his death he retained, in full, his physical and mental powers, and the death summons came

suddenly to him while seated at the breakfast table one morning in the home of his son, John, near Montreal. He had only two children, Franklin and John. The latter, a lifelong resident of Canada, was especially active in church matters and served as a deacon for a number of years.

Born January 22, 1797, Franklin Chamberlin was a boy when his parents settled in Canada, and there he grew to manhood. In 1837 he journeyed by wagon from Canada to Chicago, thence came to what is now Will County and took up land at Twelve Mile Grove. After seven years he moved to Blue Island. In 1851 he moved to Black Oak Grove, now known as Oak Lawn, of which he was a pioneer. During his residence there he represented the town of Worth as a member of the Cook County board of supervisors for several years, and was a leader in local politics. On the farm which he improved there he died, when eighty-four years of age. His wife died at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Adams, in Utah, in 1889, aged ninety-two years. Of their seven children, Sallie Ann died at Naehusa, Ill.; Oliver S. is the subject of this sketch; Annie married Jediah Scott, now of California; Mary married John Adams and lives in Centerville, Utah; James lives in Pasadena; Henry went to Nevada and traveled by wagon from there to Oregon, settling seventy-five miles from Lagrande, where he died in 1896; and one child died in infancy.

When twelve years of age our subject accompanied his parents from Canada to Chicago, a trip that consumed four months. They reached Chicago in the summer and found it a small, insignificant town. Joliet, too, was a little hamlet of no importance. He assisted in building a cabin on the claim at Twelve Mile Grove, using black walnut timber in the construction of the building. He accompanied his parents later to Blue Island, where he remained until twenty-seven years of age. In 1854 he began to buy cattle and afterward engaged in the stock business on a rather extensive scale. In 1857 he purchased a farm near Blue Island and there he made his home for seven years, meantime buying



and selling cattle. In 1862 he sold his farm and moved to Joliet, where he resided for thirteen years. On coming to this city he purchased the crockery business of Thomas Cagwin, and for some years sold crockery and glassware. His store and stock were destroyed by fire in 1866, after which he opened a store on Chicago street, continuing in the grocery business there for a few years. In 1875 he sold out and purchased a farm on Maple street, New Lenox Township, where he engaged in raising fine stock and made his home for seventeen years. When he rented his farm in 1892 he moved to the house formerly owned by his father-in-law, and here he has lived in retirement from business cares. Besides the property which he owns, his wife has four hundred and forty acres in New Lenox Township, which she rents. In politics he always votes the Republican ticket.

In 1853 Mr. Chamberlin married Eliza, daughter of Henry K. Stevens, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. They have one son now living, Frank E., and lost one son, Albert H., the elder of the two, who was killed at the age of twenty-two while on a hunting trip on the Kankakee River. Frank E. married Virginia C., daughter of George House, and they and their son, Albert F., reside with his father and mother on Cass street.

the business into a department store, with a complete general line of goods. In his store at Nos. 221-223 Chicago street he uses four floors, with a frontage of sixty-six feet and a depth of ninety feet. The basement and first and second floors are used for retail purposes, while the third is for storage. Since 1896 the business has been carried on under the firm name of George A. Ducker & Co., his partner being J. C. Hunt, who has charge of the second floor. In March, 1898, Mr. Ducker became interested in the establishment of the mercantile house of Fred Roblin & Co., in Waukegan, and he has since been a member of this firm.

His ability as a merchant and financier Mr. Ducker probably inherits from his father, James Ducker, who was for years one of the most successful business men in this county. In his sketch upon another page appears the family history. Our subject was born in Mokena, this county, April 16, 1859. When only eleven years of age he began to assist in his father's store. After coming to Joliet in 1874 he was for two years cashier and bookkeeper with his father. At the same time he studied under a private tutor. In 1876 he became connected with the sales department and after a time was made buyer for the store. In the spring of 1885 he went to Red Cloud, Neb., and opened a dry-goods store, but when his father died, in December of that year, he sold the business and returned to act as executor of the estate. Since the estate was settled he has been in business in Joliet.

**G**EORGE A. DUCKER. In studying the lives of successful business men, we find that they invariably possess great energy of character. It is to the possession of this quality that Mr. Ducker owes not a little of his prosperity, for through it, and the exercise of wise judgment in all transactions, he has been enabled to build up a business that stands among the foremost of Joliet enterprises. When he began, in 1886, the trade was small and the stock of goods far inferior to that of the present time. From time to time he increased his stock by adding new departments, and in 1896 he merged

Fraternally Mr. Ducker is a member of Matteson Lodge, A. F. & A. M., Joliet Chapter, and Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T., also Medinah Temple, N. M. S. In the order of Elks he is a member of the local board of trustees, and he is also actively connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. Socially he is identified with the Union Club. A Democrat in politics, he was in the spring of 1898 elected assistant supervisor of Joliet Township, and since his election to the board has been chairman of the purchasing committee for the courthouse and jail, and a member of other committees. In religion he is a Universalist. In this city he married Florence,

daughter of Valentine Rathburn, who was for years a farmer in Dupage County, Ill., but died in Joliet. Mr. and Mrs. Ducker have two children, Edna M. and George A., Jr.

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**R**OBERT ALEXANDER, who is engaged in the wholesale meat business in Joliet and is also a member of the firm of Fleischer & Co., representing the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company, was born in Stuttgart, the capital city of Wurtemberg, Germany, March 2, 1853, a son of Isaac and Theresa (Neuman) Alexander, also natives of Wurtemberg. His father, a man of superior intelligence and information, became interested at an early age in antiquities and in art, and gave his attention to the collection of paintings, arms and armor, laces, porcelain, etc. In this way he became known throughout his entire country, and his collection was said to be one of the finest ever made. His life was wholly given up to his family and his business. His wife died in 1869 and he in 1893. Of their ten children, three daughters and two sons are still living, the two latter, Robert and Henry, being in Joliet.

After having completed the studies of the high school in Stuttgart, our subject came to America in 1870, joining two sisters in North Carolina, where he secured work as a clerk. Later he was employed in Atlanta, Ga., Memphis, Tenn., and St. Paul, Minn. The summer of 1876 he spent in Bismarck, N. Dak., after which he clerked in Brownsville, Tex., for four years. In 1883 he went to Chicago and was employed in the office of the commanding general, Philip Sheridan, in that city. When General Schofield succeeded to the command, he continued with him as confidential clerk, and also held a similar position with the next commanding generals, Terry and Crook. On the death of General Crook, in 1890, he came to Joliet and embarked in the wholesale meat business with his father-in-law, Jonas Kahn, the firm title being Kahn & Alexander. At

first they acted as consignees for Armour & Co., but in 1894 they settled with that firm and engaged in business independently. Since the death of Mr. Kahn, March 24, 1897, Mr. Alexander has been alone, although he still retains the old firm name.

In Chicago, in 1886, Mr. Alexander married Millie, daughter of Jonas Kohn. Fraternally he is connected with Matteson Lodge of Masonry, is past high priest of the Royal Arch Chapter and a member of the council of Royal and Select Masters in Joliet. He is also associated with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In politics he is a staunch Republican. Besides his other interests he acts as executor of the Kahn estate. He is an energetic and capable business man and is justly meeting with success.

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**J**AMES WALSH, a retired farmer residing in Spencer, New Lenox Township, was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland, in 1838. At twenty-one years of age he came to the United States, landing in New York City, and for a short time working as a hired hand on farms, afterward engaging in agricultural pursuits on his own account. In 1851 he came to Illinois and settled in Joliet, which at that time had only one business street. He was employed on the Rock Island Railroad during its construction, after which he rented a farm. In 1855 he bought property on section 27, New Lenox Township, where he began independent farming. At different times he bought other farm land, until he now owns five hundred acres of as fine land as may be found in the entire county, besides a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Livingston County, Ill. Besides raising cereals, he gave considerable attention to the raising of stock, and in both departments of agriculture met with gratifying success. He continued to make his home on the farm until 1891, when he rented the place and purchased a home in Spencer. It is his intention to spend the remainder of his life in this



village, retired from active labors, and in the enjoyment of the comforts his industry has rendered possible. Having been a hard-working man, he well deserves the rest he now enjoys.

The platform of the Democratic party represents the political views of Mr. Walsh, who has been a steadfast supporter of its men and measures and has shown considerable interest in town affairs. For a number of years he served as school director. He and his family are members of the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church. His life shows what it is possible for a man to accomplish in this world, when he is industrious and has the aid of a good wife. In the early days of his residence here he was compelled to work almost ceaselessly, and often the hour of midnight found him still in the field. Equally hard-working was his wife, who frequently bound grain all night, working in the field by his side both night and day.

Prior to her marriage, in New York City, in 1851, Mrs. Walsh bore the maiden name of Margaret Delaney; she was a daughter of William Delaney, who came to this country from Ireland in 1849. The six children of Mr. and Mrs. Walsh are named as follows: Annie, wife of James Carroll; John and Martin, farmers of this county; Michael and James, of Campus, Livingston County; and Patrick, a teacher in the schools of this county. Mr. Walsh and his wife also adopted a child of six years from the New York St. Joseph's orphan asylum. They gave her the name of Annie Walsh, and she still remains with them, finding a happy home with her adopted parents.

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**T**HOMAS J. NEESE, supervisor of Wesley Township, and a dealer in agricultural implements at Ritchey, has been connected with the farming interests of the township since 1876, when he settled on a farm here. Besides his general farming he has been engaged in raising and feeding cattle, and since 1890 has also acted as local representative of the Deering

Harvester Company. Although he was reared in the Democratic faith he is a staunch Republican and exercises his right of franchise in favor of the party to whose principles he adheres. He is very active in local politics. Frequently he has been chosen by his fellow-citizens to occupy some local office of trust and honor. For two years he was collector of the township, for three years served as assessor and for six years was township treasurer. In 1892 he was elected supervisor, and this office he has since filled to the satisfaction of the people, discharging its duties with promptness and fidelity. He has acted as a member of the county central committee and as delegate to county and state conventions. It was largely through his efforts that a school was secured and a fine building erected in the village of Ritchey. In his work as school director he has been instrumental in advancing the educational interests of his district and in raising the grade of scholarship.

Before the Revolutionary war Peter Neese came from Germany and settled in Center County, Pa. That was then in the midst of a trackless wilderness. People were few and privations many. In order to get feed for his cattle he cut down forest trees for their leaves. He became a large farmer and was successful for those days. When a very old man he died in 1852. His son, William, was a native of Center County, where he spent his life on a farm. He held a number of minor offices and supported the Democratic party. For some time he was an elder in the Lutheran Church. He died in 1867, when sixty years of age. By his marriage to Margaret Hubler, a native of Center County, he had three children, namely: Thomas J.; Mary, wife of Silas Smith, of Manhattan, Ill.; and Alexander, who died in Kansas when thirty-three years of age.

On his father's farm in Center County, Pa., our subject was born September 6, 1847. He received a common-school education, after which he assisted in cultivating the home farm for two years. In 1869 he came to Illinois with his brother and settled in Florence Township, where he began farming and stock-raising. In 1876 he moved to Wesley Township, and has since been one of its



best-known men. He is a member of the Knights of Globe at Ritchey. Ever since the Methodist Episcopal Church was built he has been one of its trustees and has assisted liberally in all its enterprises. In 1867 he married Miss Jane C. Groosman, a native of Pennsylvania. They are the parents of four children, the eldest being Della, wife of Frederick Hiles, of this township. The others are George William, Sonata S. and Walter B.

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**F**REDERICK FORKEL, foreman of Barrows' Lock Company, at Lockport, was born in Dresden, Germany, March 29, 1861, a son of Frederick and Christine Forkel, natives of the kingdom of Saxony. His father was a German soldier and served in the Schleswig-Holstein war of 1849; by trade he was a gardener and also a weaver. He died in 1877, and his wife in 1898. Of their three children, Adolph is foreman in a machine factory in Dresden; Bertha is married and resides in Dresden. Our subject, who was the youngest of the family, is the only one in America. He was reared in his native city, and received his education in the excellent schools there. At the age of fourteen, following the usual custom in Germany, he was apprenticed to a trade. For about four years he worked as an apprentice in a machine shop, after which he followed his trade successively in Bavaria, Bohemia, Vienna, Northern Italy, Switzerland, Wurtemberg, Baden, Alsace-Lorraine, Belgium and Holland. Afterward he spent a year at his old home, then went to Frankenstahl on the Rhine, and from there came to America in 1882.

The first location of Mr. Forkel in this country was at Stamford, Conn., where he was employed as a locksmith with the Yale Lock Manufacturing Company for two years. For one year he was foreman of the scale department and machinist with the Automatic Scale Company. Upon the closing of the plant he returned to the Yale Lock Company as machinist, remaining for six months.

Next he was foreman in the pattern department of the S. C. Linde Company, at South Newark, Conn. For three years he was employed at Cresskill, N. J., and when his employers moved to Cleveland, Ohio, he was given charge of the pattern department with the Perkins Lock Company. After remaining with them for some time, in 1889 he came to Lockport as superintendent of the Barrows' Manufacturing Company, which position he held for two years. When the firm was changed to the Barrows' Lock Company he was made general superintendent, with the oversight of the one hundred or more hands employed in the factory. He gives his attention very closely to the details of the position, and has proved a most valued employe, having, in addition to his regular work, also constructed a number of improvements on the locks and machines manufactured in the factory.

The home of Mr. Forkel is situated on the corner of Hamilton and Sixth streets, Lockport. Here he resides, with his family, including his wife, Mrs. Maria (Herbeck) Forkel, and daughter, Mary Elizabeth. Fraternally he is connected with Lockport Lodge No. 538, A. F. & A. M.; Lockport Chapter, R. A. M., the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Englewood, N. J. In politics he is a Republican. His religious views are in sympathy with the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, in which faith he was reared.

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**E**DWARD L. WILSON, secretary and general manager of the Manhattan creamery, and the owner of a valuable farm on section 17, Manhattan Township, was born in Worth, Cook County, Ill., November 11, 1870, and is a son of Edward and Magdaline (Lendrum) Wilson, natives of the north of Ireland. He was one of six children, all of whom are dead except himself and his brother, Robert J., of Cook County. His father emigrated from Ireland in 1853 and settled in Cook County, Ill., where he

has since conducted farm pursuits upon an extensive scale, and is now the owner of three hundred acres, on which he engages principally in general farming. Since the organization of the Republican party he has been a believer in its principles. He has served as highway commissioner and school director for several years, and is a man of high standing in his neighborhood. Sixty-three years of activity have not lessened his energy nor weakened his judgment, for he is still an industrious, judicious farmer.

In 1890 the subject of this sketch graduated from the commercial department of Bryant & Stratton's Business College, Chicago. He remained with his father on the home farm until 1895, and then moved to his present farm near Manhattan, which he had purchased in 1889 from W. D. B. Linn, and which is one of the old homesteads of the county. Here he has since conducted a general farming and dairy business. During the year of his removal to this farm he assisted in the organization of the Manhattan creamery, in which he is, with one exception, the largest stockholder. Since coming to his present farm he has made many improvements, thereby increasing the value of the place. Like his father, he gives his support to the men and measures advocated by the Republican party. In 1896 he married Lizzie M., daughter of Edward P. Bishop, of Cook County. He is identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which his wife also belongs. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of the Globe at Manhattan, and for some time has served as president of the order.

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**SIDNEY B. PEASE.** Since establishing his home in Joliet in 1872 Mr. Pease has been engaged in contracting and building. For proficiency in his chosen occupation he has established an enviable reputation and has been given contracts for some of the most substantial business blocks and finest residences in the city. During the first years of his connection with

Joliet building interests he drew up almost all of the plans that he used, but of more recent years he has confined his attention to the carrying out of plans designed by others. He has built as many as twenty-six residences, besides other buildings, in one year. In addition to this business he is interested with his brother, Cyrus, in the grocery and queensware business at Hamilton, Mo., the firm name being Pease Brothers. He assisted in the organization of the Joliet National Bank and has since been a member of its board of directors.

Tracing the history of the Pease family, we find that Abel Pease, a native of Vermont and a soldier of the war of 1812, removed to St. Lawrence County, N. Y., where he improved a farm and died at the age of almost eighty years. His son, Samuel, who was born in Vermont, became a farmer near Lawrenceville, N. Y., where he continued to reside until his death, at seventy-seven years. During Civil war days he was a staunch Abolitionist and a supporter of the Union. He married Irene Hamlin, who was born in Vermont and died in New York. She was a cousin of Hannibal Hamlin, who was vice-president with Abraham Lincoln. Her father, Stephen Hamlin, a Vermonter, belonged to an English family that early settled in Massachusetts. In the family of Samuel and Irene Pease were six sons and one daughter. Of these, the eldest, James, a soldier in the Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry throughout the Civil war, was wounded three times at Arkansas Post and was taken prisoner, but escaped; Hiram resides in Oregon; Nelson, now in Colorado, was a soldier in the Sixtieth New York Infantry during the Civil war; Milo died in New York; and Cyrus, also a member of the Sixtieth Regiment, is now living in Hamilton, Mo.

The second of the sons, Sidney B., was born near Lawrenceville, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., June 9, 1839, and was reared on a farm. In 1856 he settled in Illinois, and for two years during the summers worked on a farm near Dwight, and for one winter attended Lisbon Academy. In 1859 he became interested in bridge building in various sections of the coun-



try, mainly in the south, but the growing hostility between the north and the south made it unpleasant for him to remain in a pro-slavery section, so he returned to Illinois. In the fall of 1860 he cast his ballot for Lincoln and Hamlin. In April of the next year he enlisted in a company, but, the quota having already been obtained, the company was disbanded. With two others, he went to Springfield, Ill., where he was admitted into Company B, Twelfth Illinois Infantry, May 7, 1861. His regiment was stationed for a time near St. Louis and later took part in the battle of Belmont, Ky. In September, 1861, he was mustered out, but did not leave the service, re-enlisting at once in the same company and regiment. After the battle of Fort Donelson he was promoted to be second sergeant. In that battle he was wounded in the right hip by a minie ball and returned to Dwight on a thirty days' furlough; the bullet was never removed, but has given him little trouble. After returning to his regiment he took part in the battles of Shiloh, Monterey, Iuka and Corinth. The winter of 1863-64 he spent in Tennessee. Just before this he had veteranized at Richland Creek, and, at an election of officers, had been chosen second lieutenant of Company B, but, the company not being filled, he was not mustered in. After a thirty days' furlough in New York he rejoined his regiment and took part in the battles of Dalton, Resaca and Dallas. At Resaca he was wounded in the right ear. Later he was in the engagements at Kenesaw Mountain, Mico Jack Creek and the siege of Atlanta, where for four months there were continual skirmishes. In front of Atlanta, July 22, he was wounded in the right foot, but promptly bandaged the foot and held his place in the ranks. Later he was in the battles of Jonesboro, Lovejoy Station, the capture of Atlanta, and the battle of Altoona Pass, where they held the fort until reinforcements arrived. Going with Sherman toward the sea, he took part in the battle of Savannah, then marched north through the Carolinas, and was in a battle near Newberne, a hotly-contested engagement at Bentonville and the battle of Goldsborough, after which he went on to Petersburg with the troops.

At Raleigh word was received of Lincoln's assassination. When the war ended he took part in the grand review at Washington, after which he was sent to Louisville, Ky., and received a commission as first lieutenant of his company from Governor "Dick" Oglesby. He was mustered out at Springfield, Ill., July 18, 1865.

After a short time in Dwight, in 1866 Mr. Pease went to Johnson County, Kans., and engaged in contracting. During the fall of the same year he went to New Orleans, as a contractor in the Southern car works. In the spring of 1867 he went back to his native county in New York and there married Miss Jennie Eggleston, who died in Joliet in 1892. Of their five children three are living: William, who is with the Illinois Steel Company; Marion and Carrie, who are graduates of the Joliet high school. From 1867 to 1872 Mr. Pease engaged in contracting in Dwight, since which time he has been a resident of Joliet. He built and occupies a comfortable residence at No. 401 Raynor avenue. He is connected with Bartleson Post No. 6, G. A. R., and in politics has always been a strong Republican.

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**COLL McNAUGHTON.** The position held by Mr. McNaughton at the bar of Joliet is one of influence. Since coming to this city, in 1885, he has gained a wide acquaintance among the people, and has, by his character as a gentleman of honor, won the confidence of his associates. In May, 1887, upon examination before the supreme court at Ottawa, he was admitted to practice in Illinois. Returning to Joliet, he soon became a member of the law firm of Goodspeed & McNaughton, but after one year withdrew from the partnership in order to accept the position of deputy postmaster under the first administration of President Cleveland, and remained in that office until May 1, 1890. On resigning he entered the firm of Donahue & McNaughton, and resumed the general practice of law. In 1895 and again in 1897 he was elected city attorney, retiring in the spring of



1899, when he refused to be a candidate for a third term. During 1897 and 1898 he was active in letting the contract for improvements to cost \$500,000, and between the spring of 1896 and 1899 he drew up more ordinances than had been prepared or drawn by the six attorneys preceding him in the office. In 1891 he served as township supervisor. He is keenly interested in politics and has firm convictions regarding tariff, the currency question, trusts, and the other issues that are almost constantly before our people for solution. His belief brings him into affiliation with the Democratic party, and he is one of its leading exponents in Joliet. He gives his aid to all public measures having for the object the welfare of the people, and is public-spirited in his support of worthy projects.

At South End, near Campbellton, Argyllshire, Scotland, Mr. McNaughton was born August 11, 1860, a son of Donald and Margaret (Goudie) McNaughton, natives respectively of Argyllshire and Ayrshire. His grandfather, Thomas, and great-grandfather, Coll McNaughton, were natives of Argyllshire, as were their ancestors for several generations before them. They engaged in farming. Donald McNaughton, who resided on the "Culinlongart" estate, brought his family to America in 1878, and settled at Chatham, Ontario, Canada, where he has since engaged in farming. From his Scotch forefathers he inherited integrity, perseverance, a strict sense of honor and a firm Presbyterian faith. His wife, who died in 1895, was the daughter of an Ayrshire miller. In the family there were eight children, all but one of whom are still living, our subject being fourth in order of birth and the only one in Illinois. He was reared in Scotland, and prepared for college in the Campbellton high

school. When ready to enter the University of Glasgow his father decided to come to America, and so his plans were changed. Instead, however, of accompanying his parents to Canada, he went to Michigan, securing employment with his axe in the woods near St. Clair. In February, 1879, he entered Chatham Collegiate Institute, where he studied for a term. The summer of the same year he spent as a sailor on the lakes. In August, 1879, he entered the employ of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, and assisted in building the road along Portage and Lake of the Woods. In the fall he started to Canada, but stopped in Oswego, Ill., to visit an uncle, and two days after arriving there he passed an examination for a teacher's certificate and secured a school. He continued to teach there until the spring of 1885. Meantime he had been studying law, getting law-books from James R. Flanders, of Joliet. He has been a constant student of his profession, not ceasing his studies with his admission to the bar, but continuing a devoted student of all works bearing upon the principles of jurisprudence. Not only is he a brilliant lawyer, but one whose knowledge of the profession is deep and profound, and who is equipped for successful practice by a thorough acquaintance with all the authorities.

Fraternally Mr. McNaughton is a Council and Royal Arch Mason, a past officer in Matteson Lodge No. 175, A. F. & A. M., and at one time was junior warden of Joliet Commandery No. 4. He attends and supports the Universalist Church, and is a liberal contributor to religious enterprises. He married Agnes, daughter of John Conlon, a native of New York and an early settler of Joliet, where Mrs. McNaughton was born. They are the parents of two daughters, Bessie and Jean McNaughton.





*Leonard Donald,*



## THE McDONALD FAMILY.

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THE McDONALD FAMILY. As is indicated by their name, the McDonald (or Maedonald) family of the oldest settlers of Will County, in Illinois, is of Scottish extraction, but whether directly descended from one of the survivors of the massacre of Glencoe the little history or legend which remains fails to show. The pedigree is traced, however, to Michael McDonald, a sea-faring man, who came from the old country through Canada and began life in America in New England. In olden times when St. Michael was revered as a patron saint by the highlanders of Scotland, the name was more of a favorite in family nomenclature than it is at present; the descendants of Ireland are now monopolizing it.

June 20, 1766, Michael married a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Brown, by whom he had a son, Asa, and a daughter, Betsey, the latter dying young. He moved with his family to Liverpool, near Syracuse, N. Y., and left them there to pursue his calling as a sailor, and it was rumored that he was drowned in Lake Ontario. But rumor again states that he was the head of two families, and that he passed the balance of his days with the other branch.

Asa became the main support of the family and soon displayed an ability to perform this duty. Before he was of age he served as a drummer in a company raised to oppose the British at Niagara, in the last war with England. He became prominent in the New York militia as a captain and expert musician. Following various avocations until 1836, he then emigrated from Onondaga County, N. Y., to Will County, Ill., and settled at first in Joliet, then at Five Mile Grove, and afterwards bought a farm on Spring Creek, in New Lenox. He married Olive

Rudd at Syracuse and reared a family of six daughters and one son, namely: Rosanna E., Jane C., Jonathan S., Clarissa C., Harriet, Lovina and Ellen, of whom the son and Rosanna E., Jane C. and Lovina are surviving at this date. Although ostensibly a farmer, Asa employed his energies more in the cultivation and practice of music, and was a leader in many public and social enterprises, but did not aspire for political preferments. His fame as a violinist is well remembered by those who attended his dances and social gatherings. He was born May 9, 1802, and died December 4, 1857. His wife, Olive, was born September 23, 1805, and died March 1, 1873.

Jonathan S. McDonald was born at Liverpool, N. Y., April 17, 1829; he was therefore seven years old when the family settled in Joliet. Being the only son, his place would naturally be on the farm, but this proved to be too tame a life for him to follow. At the age of eighteen he began teaching a district school in the winter and worked on the farm in summer, but when the California gold fever broke out he crossed the plains in 1849 and spent four years in the mines, returning with a moderate "pile" with which to start in business at home. His effort to acquire a college education at Oberlin, Ohio, lasted only two weeks. He then turned his attention to banking at Lockport, at which he was engaged until the Civil war began in 1859, when the turn of events almost despoiled him of his wealth. December 12, 1857, he married Louisa, the daughter of Col. George Snod, who was born in England. Immediately after his failure as a banker he visited the newly discovered gold mines at California Gulch, Colo., but returned in the following spring and recruited a company

at Lockport, which became a part of the One Hundredth Illinois Infantry. He had command of this in the battles of Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, and numerous skirmishes and was "promoted for meritorious conduct in the field." He was wounded at Stone River and is now quite deaf as a consequence. After the war he served as a cashier in railroad business in Chicago, then returned to Will County and engaged in politics and newspaper publications until increased deafness compelled him to turn his attention to other enterprises. The Highland Scotch are noted for possessing a tendency to mysticism and "second sight," and this faculty seems to have developed in him; he is now engaged in philosophical pursuits, and has become noted in occult circles as the author of several books on ancient magic and esoteric philosophy.

Leon McDonald, son of J. S. McDonald, was born November 2, 1860, in the township of New Lenox, Will County, Ill. His education was acquired in the public school at Lockport, and at the Wisconsin State University. He learned the printing and publishing trade in his father's office, serving in all capacities from "printer's devil" to editor. In 1880 he went to work on the reportorial staff of the *Joliet News*, afterward occupying the chair of the city editor on the same paper. He left the *News* to engage with two others in the founding and publishing of the *Joliet Daily Press*. This venture was an extraordinary success while the original founders remained in possession. Mr. McDonald sold out his interest in 1884 and returned to Lockport, the home of his parents, where he assumed control of the publication of the *Lockport Phoenix*, this paper being still owned and published by him. Since attaining his majority he has taken an active part in county and state politics. For nineteen years he has been a member of the county Republican central committee, and during nearly all of the time a member of the executive committee of that body. Locally he has a number of times been called to positions of public trust and honor, among other things serving two terms as president of the village council. It was during his second term of office that Lock-

port's excellent system of water works was built. In 1897 he was appointed general superintendent of the Illinois & Michigan canal, which position he still holds. Since he assumed the duties of this position the canal has passed through some of the most critical experiences of its existence. The authorities of the sanitary district of Chicago avowedly sought to destroy it and acquire valuable rights belonging to the state, held under the care and control of the canal officers. The contest that ensued, both from an engineering and legal standpoint, was a huge one and most bitterly fought. It resulted, however, in a victory for the canal people on every point and saved to the state property and rights worth several millions of dollars. For the part he had in achieving this result, Mr. McDonald earned and received a great deal of credit.

He was married September 21, 1898, to Claire Augusta Rudd, daughter of Charles H. and Esther (Leonard) Rudd. Miss Rudd was born April 26, 1875; was formerly a resident of Oberlin, Ohio, and is a graduate of the college in that city. They have one daughter, Louise E., born July 13, 1899.

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JOSEPH STOOS, deceased, was at one time prominent in the public affairs of Joliet, and served as alderman from the third ward; also held the office of assistant supervisor, and for two terms was city treasurer. He was born in Oppenheim, Alsace, France, and in boyhood learned the carpenter's trade under his father, Sebastian, who was a contractor and builder of bridges and arches. When a young man he came to America with his brother, Andrew, now of Naperville, Ill., and after a short time in the latter city he came to Joliet in 1854. He was an expert builder, and had no difficulty in securing work at his trade. He was superintendent and architect of the Jefferson street bridge, which has since been torn down by order of the drainage commissioners. He had charge of the building of St. Francis' convent, Porter's brewery buildings,



St. Joseph's hospital and St. John's Roman Catholic Church. He also erected the residence that he occupied at No. 515 North Hickory street. Some of the most substantial structures in the city were erected under his supervision, and he continued actively engaged in the business until ten years before his death, when he retired. In the organization of St. John's Church he took an active part, and afterward for years was one of its trustees and a trustee of the academy. He was a member of the Sharpshooters' Association. Politically he gave his support to the Democratic party and voted for its men and measures. As a citizen he was patriotic, and, although always retaining a love for his native land, no native-born resident of the United States was more loyal to its welfare than he. His death occurred April 16, 1890.

In Joliet, November 19, 1856, Mr. Stoos married Miss Mary Anna Hassinger, who was born in Herbstheim, Alsace. Her grandfather, Michael Hassinger, was a stone mason and contractor in Alsace, where he died. Her father, Joseph, was also a contracting mason. In the spring of 1846 he brought his family to America, making the voyage from Havre to New York on a sailing vessel, thence going up the Hudson to Albany, from there on the Erie canal to Buffalo, and thence via lake to Chicago, and finally to Will County. Here he engaged in contracting and building. He had the contract for all of the culverts on the Plainfield road. Besides this, he operated a stone quarry and superintended land that he purchased here. His death occurred when he was over sixty years of age. His wife was Mary Ann, daughter of Anton Drendel, a farmer of Alsace. She died in this county in 1884, when seventy-seven years of age. Her three daughters, Mrs. Stoos, Mrs. Michael Sheidt and Mrs. Peter Gans, reside in Joliet. Mrs. Stoos was eight years old when the family came to Joliet, where she was educated. She is well known among the members of St. John's Church, having long been a member of this parish.

Eight children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Stoos. Only four are now living. The son, Alfred J., is represented elsewhere in this

volume. Theresa is the wife of Joseph Braun, Jr., whose sketch appears on another page. Mary married Prof. Henry Rolf, of Joliet, and Josephine is the wife of Robert P. Kiep, also of this city.

JOHN C. BAKER, of Manhattan Township, was born in Rensselaer County, N. Y., in 1842, a son of Clark and Lueina (Welsh) Baker. His paternal ancestors came from England and settled in Rhode Island in an early day. His grandfather, Jirah Baker, moved from Rhode Island to New York and cleared a farm from the wilderness, making his home on that place until he died at ninety years of age. He took an active part in politics and served as a delegate to the constitutional convention. His father, Benjamin Baker, served in the Revolutionary war with two of his sons, one of whom died during his term of service.

Clark Baker was born in Rensselaer County in 1796 and for years followed farming and surveying, laying out the county lines and the township lines in the town of Hoosiek. When sixteen years of age he served in the war of 1812. In 1845 he settled in Will County, purchasing a tract of timber land in what is now Manhattan Township and engaging extensively in farming and stock-raising. He became the owner of about twelve hundred acres of good land. He made a specialty of breeding Merino sheep and also raised Shorthorn cattle. For about twenty years, altogether, he held the office of supervisor, and during the same time he was justice of the peace. Politically he was a Democrat. He died at his home in 1892, when ninety-six years of age. His wife, daughter of George Washington Welsh, was born in Albany, N. Y., and died in this county at eighty-five years of age. They were the parents of five children, two of them survive, our subject and Mary E., widow of J. B. Russell.

Having come to this county in early childhood, our subject knows no other home but this. When his father retired from active cares he succeeded



to his management of the estate. He has engaged in breeding Percheron horses, Shorthorn cattle (having from eighty to one hundred head of cows) and fine sheep, and owning a farm of more than one thousand acres. Associated with Jones Brothers in Manhattan, in 1893 he purchased the Thayer elevator and established the Manhattan bank, of which he was elected president. The company has built up a grain and coal trade and a general banking business. Mr. Baker is strong in his advocacy of good roads, and politically is a Democrat. He was the first master of the Manhattan Grange and is connected with the county Grange. His first wife, Elizabeth Hoopson, whom he married in 1871 and who died in 1888, left three children; while by his present wife, who was Mary Jones, he has two sons, Robert and Clark.

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**E**DWARD H. VAN DUSER, who is engaged in farming and stock-raising in New Lenox Township, was born on the place where he now lives December 28, 1856. He is a member of a pioneer family of the county. His father, George Van Duser, a native of New York, grew to manhood in the east, but not being content to adapt himself to the grooves of farm work there he decided to seek his fortune in the great west. Coming to Illinois he spent a year in Chicago. He then settled in Will County, where he secured employment in the old Red mill on the Higinbotham homestead. November 25, 1840, he married Elmina Mellen. The following spring he brought his wife to New Lenox Township and settled upon the farm, where they spent the remainder of their lives. As he was prospered he added to his possessions, and at the same time acquired valuable stock. Through his combined efforts in farming and stock-raising he became well-to-do, and held a place among the prosperous men of the township. His interest in local affairs was noticeable throughout his life. As a Democrat he identified himself with town-

ship and county politics. He frequently was chosen to serve as a delegate to county conventions, and for a number of years he served as justice of the peace. He was an active member of the Grange. In religious views he was of the Universalist faith. He was permitted to enjoy eighty active and busy years; and then, in May, 1898, while still as strong and robust as many men twenty years his junior, he was killed by a runaway team. His wife had died five years before his death. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Emily, who is the widow of John Widney, of Kendall County, Ill.; Adelaide, who married Joshua Barrett, of Iowa; Jerome, a farmer of Iowa; Ida, deceased; Gilbert, who is engaged in farming in Kansas; Edward H.; and Flora, who married Frank Gorham, of Iowa.

Upon completing a common-school education in country and city schools our subject took up farming in connection with his father, with whom he remained until the latter's accidental death in 1898. The following year he rented the land, though still maintaining a general supervision of the place, which comprises eighty acres of tillable land and a timbered tract. In educational affairs he takes an interest, and as school director has aided the schools of his own district. He is a member of the Grange. Politically he believes that the man should be supported whose character and ability are unexceptional and whose fitness for the office in question cannot be disputed. As a citizen he is public-spirited, favoring measures for the benefit of the people and the advancement of the community's welfare.

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**W**ILLIAM A. STRONG, who was long president of the Joliet Gas Company, was born in New York in 1828, and received a public-school education in his native town of Waterloo. There he engaged in the hardware business from 1845 until 1850. During the latter year he came to Joliet and formed a partnership with his uncle, under the firm name of W. A.

Strong & Co. In 1855 the title was changed to Strong & Co., Messrs. Brooks and Barrett being admitted into partnership. Under different firm names the business was successfully conducted until 1865. On retiring from the company, our subject accepted the position of president of the Joliet Gas Company, and through his wise oversight and sound judgment the corporation became a very successful one. He also was connected with other interests of a private or public nature, and until his death was one of Joliet's most prominent men. The confidence reposed in him was shown by his selection to take charge of the settlement of various large estates. As bank director and, for a few years, as an owner of stock in a quarry business, he had diversified interests. His fellow-citizens, appreciating his business ability and high character as a man, selected him to represent them in the city council and as mayor of Joliet, where his administrative and executive faculties found a useful sphere of activity. Early in his residence in Joliet he bought one hundred and twenty-five acres of land, which he platted in a subdivision known as Glenwood.

In 1855 Mr. Strong married Miss Charlotte A. Buell, who died at Thomasville, Ga., March 20, 1889. Of their four children, two were daughters and two sons. One of the daughters, Mrs. Budlong, died in January, 1885.

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**C**HARLES W. HOSTMER, superintendent of the car department of the Michigan Central Railroad at Joliet, was born in Philadelphia, Pa., June 22, 1839, a son of Gottlieb and Minnie (Myers) Hostmer. He was one of nine children, of whom besides himself only two survive, Henry, a retired business man of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Louis, a contractor and builder in Fort Wayne. His father learned the milling business in youth, and, through good management and industrious efforts, in time became proprietor of a grist mill, but in later years turned his attention to farming. In 1836 he came to

America, proceeding from Philadelphia, Pa., to Indiana and settling on a farm near Fort Wayne. There he spent his last years in retirement from business cares. He was a member of the Lutheran Church and in politics a Democrat. His wife was born in Germany in 1803 and died in 1892.

When our subject was fifteen years of age he entered a dry-goods store at Fort Wayne, with the intention of adopting the mercantile business as his life work. However, his plans were subsequently changed. After three years he went to Chicago and apprenticed himself to the car-building trade in the Illinois Central shops. On the completion of his apprenticeship he remained in the same place as a salaried workman, and for twenty years he worked with them as a coach builder. He was then promoted to the foremanship of the car department of the passenger equipment, and remained in that important position until 1889, when he resigned to accept his present place with the Michigan Central Railroad, where he has charge of both the passenger and freight departments.

In 1876 Mr. Hostmer married Miss Betty Battershall, who was born near Albany, N. Y., a daughter of William and Emma (Wileox) Battershall, both natives of York state. Her father came to Illinois in 1861 and bought a farm at Hinesville, where he remained for a short time. He then removed into Chicago and opened a boarding house on the south side, where he resided up to the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Hostmer had only one child, Charles, and he is now deceased.

While not connected by membership with any church, Mr. and Mrs. Hostmer attend the Methodist Church and subscribe liberally to its support, as well as to the support of other worthy movements and charitable enterprises. In politics Mr. Hostmer is a staunch Republican, and fraternally is connected with Home Masonic Lodge No. 508, A. F. & A. M., of Chicago. The credit for his success is due to himself wholly. Beginning life in humble circumstances, but step by step, with commendable perseverance, he acquired a thorough knowledge of the car-building



business and thus fitted himself for a position of trust and responsibility. His success is a fitting example of what is in store as a reward for energy and directness of purpose. He is a good representative of the progressive and enterprising men of this county who are of German parentage and who retain the industrious, thrifty habits of that nationality.

**S**IMEON S. TYLER, who is engaged in the insurance and real-estate business in Joliet, was born in this county May 1, 1849. He is a member of a family whose genealogy is traced back to 1317 in England and Holland and whose members have been prominent in American history since early colonial days. To the same family belongs John Tyler, president of the United States, 1841-45. Simeon B. Tyler, father of our subject, was one of the earliest settlers of this county, whither he came from Bethel, Sullivan County, N. Y., at the same time with Squire Flagg. He built the sawmill on the Du-page River at Plainfield. In it he sawed the lumber that was hauled to Chicago by Squire Flagg and used in the building of the first frame house in the town. His own impressions of Chicago had not been favorable. He had landed from a boat in Chicago and found a town of tents. He was offered for ten shillings an acre, the land where the court house now stands, but it looked so uninviting that he had no desire to become its purchaser, even for that small sum. Coming to Plainfield he bought one hundred and sixty acres, to which he added later. He was a carpenter by trade and erected many of the first buildings in Plainfield. Some years afterward he took up farm work, in which he continued until his death. Active in religious work he was a leading Baptist of his locality and assisted in building two churches in Plainfield. He did not take any part in public affairs, preferring private business to office. After coming to this county he married Ruth, sister of Jason Flanders, a pioneer of Plainfield. Nine children were born

to their union, four of whom are living. A. H. Tyler, who died February 8, 1900, enlisted in the Union army in 1862, when only fifteen years of age, and served for three years as a member of the One Hundredth Illinois Infantry. Lansing H. is a large farmer of Remington, Ind.; Ralph W., for many years a traveling salesman, makes his home in Galesburg, Ill.; and Esther R. married Wesley Simmons, a farmer and stockman of Fairbury, Neb.

The first among the four now living is the subject of this article. He was reared in Plainfield, where his father resided from 1832 until his death in February, 1889. When he was a boy his older brothers started to the front to aid in defending the Union. One of them, Hubbard A., who was then seventeen years old, died of typhoid fever at Nashville, Tenn., during his term of service. Unable on account of his youth to go with his brothers, our subject was forced to content himself with the routine of study in the village school. Later he studied in the Northwestern College of the Evangelical Church, which was then in Plainfield, but is now in Naperville. His first venture in business was as a merchant in Evansville, Ind. After some time he came to Joliet. Later he made a trip to Kansas and selected land near Dodge City, on the old Santa Fe trail. Locating there he was for three and one-half years engaged in the clearing and cultivating of his land, after which he returned to Joliet. As an insurance agent he represents twelve of the old-line standard companies. Since he started in the insurance business nearly twenty-five years ago he has represented a number of these companies steadily, which speaks volumes for his ability and knowledge of the business. From early boyhood his sympathies have been with the Republican party, which he was reared to believe the party of advance and progress. His father had on his place a station of the underground railroad and was a staunch Abolitionist and Republican, and his brothers were no less strong in their political sympathies. However, he has never cared for office and has never been active in politics. Fraternally he is connected with Mount Joliet Lodge No. 42, A. F. &



A. M. In 1888 he erected on Eastern avenue the comfortable residence where he and his family have since made their home. He was married, November 18, 1874, to Miss Lovice B. Towne, a daughter of Caroline (Hammond) Towne, of Waupun, Wis. They have two children, Walter S. and Dorris, the former a student in the Illinois University. The family are connected with Central Presbyterian Church.

**F**RANK SPRAGUE, an enterprising farmer and dairyman of Lockport Township, was born July 22, 1858, in Dupage Township on the Plainfield road, where his father, Thomas J., located on settling in Will County. Throughout his entire life he has been identified with the farming interests of this county, and, in addition, has had other interests of an important character. His education was received in country schools and the Lockport high school. Growing to manhood on a farm, familiar from his earliest recollections with agricultural pursuits, he was well fitted for the management of a farm of his own, and on arriving at man's estate chose for his life work the occupation with which he was most familiar. He was twenty-two years of age when he started out in life for himself. His first independent venture was the renting of the home farm, which he carried on alone for two years.

In the fall of 1883, in connection with his brother, Charles N. (a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work, as does also that of their father), Mr. Sprague purchased his present farm. In the spring of 1884 he settled on the place. At once he began its improvement and cultivation. Besides the raising of general farm products he gave considerable attention to the dairy business. In 1894 he sold a part of the farm south of the railroad to the Joliet Limestone Company; at the same time he bought his brother's interest in the remainder and has since operated it alone. He is a dealer in all kinds of farm and dairy feed, shipments to him being made in car load lots by

means of a side track on his place. He milks about twenty head of cows and sells the milk to dealers. He owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of choice farm land. In the fall of 1890 he opened up a quarry on the farm, quarrying a fine grade of rock. In 1894 he sold the stone quarry, then opened, to the Joliet Lime Stone Company, after which he opened another quarry. In March, 1899, he rented it to the Keltie Stone Company. The presence of the rock in the strata of his land greatly enhances the value of the place.

Politically Mr. Sprague votes with the Democrats at national elections, but in local affairs gives his support to men whom he considers best qualified to represent the people. He has always refused official positions for himself. His marriage took place June 2, 1881, and united him with Florence E., daughter of Philip S. Tripp, of Hillsdale County, Mich. Ten children were born of their union, of whom seven are living, namely: Florence Olive, Vila May, Libbie Elsie, Charles Albert, Philip T., George C. and Alice C.

**S**AMUEL HOOD, a retired physician, resides on section 16, Crete Township. He was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, June 25, 1815. His father, Samuel Hood, Sr., a native of Ireland, but of English ancestry, came to America in 1840 and settled on new land in Cook County, Ill., remaining there until his death at eighty-seven years. He married four times, the mother of our subject being Maria E. Vanhaften, who was born in Bombay, and was first married to a surgeon-general in an East Indian Company. After his death she married Mr. Hood. Of her two children our subject alone survives. He began to study medicine when he was eighteen years of age, first serving three years in an apothecary shop and then entering a medical college in London, England. Three years later he graduated, after which he set sail for America. For a number of years he practiced in different

places in Pennsylvania, then moved to Gentry County, Mo., and after four years came to Illinois, where he carried on practice for twenty years.

In Butler County, Pa., Dr. Hood married Ellen Stewart, who was born in County Donegal, Ireland, and came to America with her parents in girlhood. Nine children were born to their union, but death has removed a number of these from the home they once brightened by their presence. Thomas died when twenty-one, Samuel when eighteen and David when seven. Two died in infancy. John J. became a farmer in the upper peninsula of Michigan. Mary married Nelson Seymour, a farmer at Homewood, Cook County. Maria married Henry Seymour, engineer of the Crete Manufacturing Company. Harriet became the wife of Robert Hewes, a farmer of Crete Township.

**H**ARVEY B. PORTER, who is one of the most successful farmers of Channahon Township, was born in Newburg, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, June 1, 1860, a son of Lemah and Arzelia (Benedict) Porter. He was second among five children, the eldest of whom, Alice A., is principal of the musical department in "The Western," a university for women at Oxford, Ohio. The youngest, Alta S., is the wife of Sherman Lewis, a farmer of Will County. The others, Alma R. and Edgar S., reside with their mother on the old homestead. In the house where our subject was born the birth of his father occurred November 1, 1831, and there he made his home until 1866. He then came to Will County and bought two hundred and forty acres in Channahon Township. Here he settled down to farm pursuits. The ensuing years were spent in the tilling of the soil, sowing of seed and harvesting of grain. Stock-raising, too, received some of his attention. Five years after he settled here he bought an adjoining eighty-acre tract, which made his farm one-half section in acreage.

He was an educated man, a broad reader, and was well informed on all public questions. Politically an ardent Republican he did much to advance the Republican cause in his township. He was not a seeker after office, and always refused to allow his name to be used as a candidate. However, he made an exception in cases of school offices, and for some years filled the office of school trustee. He died at his homestead August 28, 1895.

The grandfather of our subject, Harvey Porter, was a descendant of Puritan stock. His father served under General Washington during the Revolutionary war; in an early day he removed to New York and settled in Schoharie County, where the grandfather was born. The latter, in 1818, when a young man, went to Ohio and established his home in Cuyahoga County, where he resided until his death in 1861. During three months in the war of 1812 he served in the army, and at the time of the British attack on Fort Erie he was doing detailed duty at the Batavia arsenal, from which point the noise of cannon and the firing of guns could be distinctly heard.

The mother of our subject was also of good old Revolutionary ancestry. She and her parents, Julius S. and Mary (Rogers) Benedict, were natives of Vermont, whence they removed to Ohio, settling near Bedford when she was three years of age. Her grandfather Rogers was a general in the Revolutionary war and served on Washington's staff. Mrs. Porter was born in 1829, and, though now advanced in years, is still hearty and strong. Since her husband's death she has remained with her children on the old homestead, where her declining days are brightened by the affection of her children and the esteem of her friends.

After having studied for some time in the high school at Channahon our subject entered the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Ind., from which he graduated in 1888. For four months afterward he taught a district school, but pedagogy was not congenial and he sought a position more to his liking. Returning to Angola, for two years he was employed in a machine shop as a model maker. From there he went to Joliet, where he



carried on a model-making shop for two years. The failing health of his father rendered his presence at the old home advisable. He went back and assumed the management of the farm. Since then he has superintended the cultivation of the land and the selling of the farm products, in which work he shows decided ability and enterprise. Politically he is a Republican and works in the interests of his party. In 1894 he was elected highway commissioner of Channahon Township, which office he filled for three years. He is a member of the Methodist Church and one of its trustees. Fraternally he is connected with Channahon Lodge No. 262, A. F. & A. M.; Kalon Camp No. 4282, M. W. A., and Channahon District Court of Honor.

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**T**HOMAS J. SPRAGUE. One of the men who by personal sacrifice and persevering industry wrested a home and fortune from the raw prairie land of Will County, and who will be long remembered by those among whom he made his home, was the well-known pioneer, Thomas J. Sprague. Coming here when the region was wild and uncultivated, he bore his part in the development of the land and assisted in bringing Will County to its present high standing among the counties of Illinois. He was born in Hamburg, Erie County, N. Y., November 23, 1810, and grew to manhood on a farm. After having for two years engaged in the mercantile business, in 1838 he came west to Illinois, settling in Dupage Township, Will County. Here he bought one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land on which scarce a furrow had been turned nor an attempt at improvement made. The task of improving the place was no small one, but he succeeded in doing so and met with more than ordinary success as a pioneer farmer. By the purchase of canal and government land he finally became the owner of over five hundred acres, which he held until his death. After years of arduous labor as a farmer he accumulated suf-

ficient to give him a nice income, and he then retired from active labors and came to Joliet, where he made his home from 1890 until he passed from earth, October 22, 1898, after an illness of one week. Financially he was a successful man; nor was he less successful in winning the esteem of his associates and the warm regard of his friends. In politics he was always staunch in his adherence to the Democratic party. Fraternally he was connected with Lockport Lodge No. 538, A. F. & A. M. While he was not identified with any denomination he was a believer in Christianity (his parents having been Quakers) and in his life endeavored to live up to the teachings of Christ. It was his pleasure in his last years to contrast the improvements of the present with the privations of the past, and to call the attention of others to the wonderful transformation wrought in this county during his sixty years of residence here. No one rejoiced more than he in the county's upward growth and progress.

January 9, 1845, Mr. Sprague married Mrs. Lydia (Swift) Godfrey, daughter of Shubael and Eunice (Olmstead) Swift. Her father was born and reared in Austerlitz, Columbia County, N. Y., and engaged in farming there until 1835, when he drove through to Illinois and settled in what is now Dupage Township, Will County. Pre-empting a tract of wild land he gave his attention to its improvement. Later he added to it by the purchase of canal land. A number of years later he sold the farm and moved to Waukegan, where he died at ninety-four years of age. In politics he was a Democrat. His wife had died in New York when thirty-seven years of age, leaving three children. One of these, Lydia, was born December 28, 1818, on the homestead at Austerlitz, where her father's eyes had first opened to the light. She accompanied her father to this county in 1835, and, having received an excellent education in the east, she secured a position as teacher in Dupage Township, continuing in that occupation until her marriage. In 1839 she became the wife of Charles Godfrey, who came to this county from the east in 1833. Three children were born of their marriage, viz.: Eunice E.,



wife of Reuben W. Kilmer; Joseph, a resident of Joliet; and Mrs. Julia M. Lord, of Joliet. A few years after the death of Mr. Godfrey his widow became the wife of Mr. Sprague. Of the children born to this union three died when young and Thomas J. died in Joliet October 3, 1893, after having gained a good practice as a physician. Two other sons, Charles N. and Frank, are represented on other pages of this volume. The daughters are: Elizabeth, wife of Jonathan Math-er; Harriet, widow of Albert Phelps, of Dupage Township; and Celia, widow of George E. Royce, of Naperville, Ill.

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**ROBERT MANN WOODS.** One of the best known men of Illinois is the subject of this article, who won the title of major during the Civil war and whose record, both in military and civil affairs, is one of which he and his may well be proud. He is a member of a family descended from old Scotch-Irish Presbyterian stock. His father, William J. Woods, a native of Pennsylvania and a cabinet-maker by trade, removed from the east to Illinois in 1842 and settled in Pike County. He was the only man in that county who voted for James G. Birney for president. He was an Abolitionist and Prohibitionist as far back as 1825. In 1848 he moved to Galesburg, Ill., where he published a free-soil paper, the *Galesburg Free Democrat*, in which office the subject of this sketch learned the printer's trade. In 1855 Mr. Woods, Sr., was one of several gentlemen who founded the Western Industrial and Scientific Institution and organized the college at College Springs, Iowa. At a later date he moved to Minneapolis, Kans., and there died May 10, 1900, at the age of ninety-five years. He was three times married. His first wife was Sarah Lyon Mann, a native of Maryland, daughter of Maj. Robert Mann, a soldier of 1812, and of the family of Horace Mann, the great educator. She was a kin to Mary Lyon, founder of Mt. Holyoke Seminary. By their union ten children were born, of whom the major was the fifth.

Born in Greenville, Mercer County, Pa., April 17, 1840, Major Woods was two years old when the family settled in Illinois. His earliest recollections are of the pioneer surroundings and incidents of Pike County. While living at Galesburg he attended Knox College. In 1858 he went to Iowa and taught school there and in Missouri for three years. At the opening of the Civil war he was appointed by Governor Yates to a position in the office of the quartermaster-general and afterwards that of the governor, where he remained until June, 1864. He was then made adjutant of Yates' Sharpshooters, which formed the Sixty-fourth Illinois Regiment. He served in this through the Atlanta campaign, after which he was detailed as a mustering officer. Later he served on the staff of Maj.-Gen. Giles A. Smith, taking part in the march to the sea and the campaign through the Carolinas. His commissions as captain and major were the reward of gallantry and valor on the field of battle.

After taking part in the grand review at Washington and also serving as a mustering-out officer for General Sherman's army at Louisville, Ky., Major Woods was summoned to Springfield, Ill., by Adj.-Gen. I. N. Haynie, and there he compiled the regimental histories (filling nine volumes) of all the Illinois regiments. In the spring of 1866 he wrote the constitution and by-laws of the Grand Army of the Republic, which was organized by Dr. B. F. Stephenson, and of which Major Woods was the first adjutant-general. Soon afterward he organized the various departments throughout the northwest. The first charter issued, that of Decatur Post No. 1, has his name upon it. In 1868 he went to Chicago. For some years he was chief clerk during the construction of the United States custom house and postoffice in that city. In 1877 he was made insurance examiner of Illinois, a position of great responsibility and one which he filled most creditably. During the time in that position he was obliged to close up, in the courts of the state, every life insurance company then organized under this state.

As a newspaper man Major Woods began his career in 1879, when he purchased the *Joliet Re-*

*publican* from James Goodspeed. This paper he conducted successfully, proving that the ability which had made itself manifest in the army and in business was also fitted for the field of journalism. In 1883 he purchased the *Joliet Sun*, which he merged into the *Republican*. By the subsequent purchase in 1888 of the *Daily and Weekly Press* he extended his influence as a newspaper man, merging the three papers into the *Republic and Sun*, a popular and influential daily and weekly paper, which took a leading part in all the activities of the local Republican organization. There was also a job department and a book bindery. In 1892 he disposed of his interest in the newspaper business. Organizing the St. Louis Paving Brick Company of Galesburg, he became its secretary and treasurer. He afterward organized the Peerless Portland Cement Company of Union City, Mich., of which he was vice-president. He now has an office in Chicago and goes to that city daily, but still makes his home in Joliet, being too devoted to this place to desire to transfer his citizenship elsewhere.

October 5, 1867, Major Woods married Miss May Florence Miner, who was born in Harding, Ill., April 8, 1851, a daughter of Samuel E. and Asenath (Darrow) Miner. The Miners and Darrows were Massachusetts and Connecticut Yankees, having had six ancestors who were minute men at Lexington in the Revolutionary war, and twelve in the war of 1812. Major and Mrs. Woods have two children, Alice M. and Miner R.

From this résumé of the life of Major Woods it will be seen that he is a man who has wielded a potent influence in public affairs, bearing a part in many lines of activity that have been far-reaching and powerful. Every duty of life he has discharged faithfully and well. As a soldier he performed duties that were hazardous. In all the hardships and responsibilities of forced marches, bloody battles or monotonous camp-life, he proved himself a true son of Mars, giving unmistakable evidence of endurance, patience and heroism. From the ordeal of a soldier's life he emerged with laurels won upon sanguinary battlefields and with an official rank that had

been well earned. Nor has his subsequent career as a private citizen been less meritorious. The same qualities that brought him success in the one contributed to his advance in the other. When in the world of journalism he used his influence to promote enterprises of undoubted merit, whose success would mean the enhancement of Joliet's progress. Realizing the power of the press, he sought to make his paper a power for good, a factor in the moral, educational and commercial advancement of his town. In the real-estate and loan business, to which some of his best years have been given, he has won many warm friends and built up a patronage that is valuable and of a high class. The wisdom governing his actions has inspired confidence in his judgment, and his entire circle of acquaintances concede to him high ability and unwavering integrity.

JOHN C. COWING was born at Lisbon, N. H., June 6, 1833, a son of David and Polly (Jessemen) Cowing. His father, who was born at Lisbon February 6, 1795, became a minister in the Free Will Baptist Church. He was married at Sugar Hill, Grafton County, N. H., in 1814, to Polly Jessemen, who was born June 24, 1795. They both died at Elk Grove, Cook County, Ill., his death occurring September 17, 1848, while his wife passed away March 3, 1850. They had come, with their family, to Illinois in 1844, arriving in Chicago on the 9th of November, and settled first at Half Day, on the Desplaines River, in Lake County, Ill, but shortly afterward removed to Chicago.

After the decease of his mother, our subject made his home in Richmond, McHenry County, Ill., for a short time, but during the same year (1850) went to Twelve Mile Grove, Will County, Ill., and thence to Rockford in 1852. He was married in Beloit, Wis., December 29, 1853, to Elizabeth Bradshaw, of Rockford, Ill., who was born in Derry Township, Columbia County, Pa.,



January 31, 1834, and died on their farm at West Peotone, Will County, Ill., September 22, 1896. In 1854 he settled in the township of Wilton, Will County, but sold his property there and settled on section 19, Peotone Township, in February, 1855. He still resides there and is the oldest permanent settler in the town. His first purchase in the township was eighty acres. By subsequent purchases he became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, but of this he has sold a large part, and now has a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He is an active Republican. He has filled some township and local offices, including those of constable, commissioner of highways and school director. An active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, he is steward and a trustee of his congregation, and has the honor of having organized the first Sunday-school in his district. For some years he has been practically retired, having given the management of his farm (on which he still resides) to his youngest son.

The lady whom Mr. Cowing married was a lineal descendant of Judge Bradshaw, who sat on the bench at the trial of Charles II. Her father, George Bradshaw, in early life engaged in teaching school, but later cultivated a farm. On coming west he made his home in Rockford, Ill., for some time, but finally removed to Lee County, this state, where he died. One of his sons, B. H. Bradshaw, was a power in the Republican party and an active man in public affairs, serving several terms as a member of the Illinois legislature and holding other offices of trust and honor.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Cowing comprised the following sons and daughters: Mary Luella, who was born in Wilton Township, September 29, 1854, and died in Peotone, Ill., July 6, 1885; Albert H., who was born in Peotone, May 29, 1857, being the oldest surviving male child born in the township of Peotone; George J., born in Peotone, March 25, 1859; John F., who was born in Peotone, February 12, 1869, and died in Ann Arbor, Mich., February 5, 1884, while a student in the law department of the State University; Addie M., who was born in Peotone, April 4,

1866, and who resides with her father; Herbert H., who was born in Peotone, January 9, 1869, and died September 29 of the same year; Arthur B., who was born January 10, 1871, and is now preparing for the profession of law; and James R., who was born in Peotone, May 25, 1873, and now has charge of the home farm.

**G**EORGE J. COWING. This well-known attorney of Joliet, member of the firm of Cowing & Young, is one of the native-born sons of Will County. He was born in Peotone Township, March 25, 1859, and received his elementary education in public schools and under private tutors. From seventeen until twenty-one years of age he taught in district schools, and with the money thus earned he began a course of study in the Northwestern University in 1880, but his incessant labor had impaired his health and he was obliged to temporarily discontinue his studies. In the spring of 1881 he went to Colorado, where he remained for fifteen months, returning in the summer of 1882. Soon afterward he matriculated in the law department of Michigan University, where he took the regular course of lectures, graduating in 1884. Among his classmates was the since well-known "Dick" Yates, who has become a power in Republican circles of Illinois.

Constant devotion to his studies had again affected Mr. Cowing's health and after graduating he found it necessary to spend several months recuperating. As soon as he had recovered his health he came to Joliet and began the practice of law, associating himself with the law firm of Olin & Phelps. After eighteen months with them he opened an office at No. 317 Jefferson street, in an office adjoining that of Hon. Edward C. Aiken, to whose large and valuable law library he had free access. Soon afterward he formed a partnership with Col. J. B. Fithian, under the firm name of Fithian & Cowing, and this firm built up a large practice. In 1889 their



partnership was dissolved. Soon after this Mr. Cowing entered into partnership with Hon. Benjamin Olin, which continued until Mr. Olin was elected county judge. In his canvas for that office Mr. Olin had no supporter more active than his law partner, in spite of the fact that the candidate was a Democrat and his partner a staunch Republican. In 1892 Mr. Cowing associated himself with George W. Young and October 1, 1898, they removed their office to the Cutting building, where they have a well-equipped suite of three rooms.

Fraternally Mr. Cowing is identified with Matteson Lodge No. 175, A. F. & A. M.; Paul Revere Lodge No. 371, K. of P., in which he was chancellor commander; and Mound City Camp, Modern Woodmen of America. He is admirably fitted for successful work in his profession and in the public service, being systematic, exact and business-like, and at the same time well-informed, genial and accommodating. He is connected with the Richards Street Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is a trustee. In 1890 he married Miss Stella Titsworth, daughter of H. M. Titsworth, of Aurora. They have three children, Luella A., Glen L. and John C.

R. C. Straight established his home in McLean County, but ten years later he moved to Fairbury, where he followed farm pursuits for a time. Later, for ten years he manufactured tile in that city, being the first to embark in that business in his section of the state. Not only was he a pioneer in the business, but a large manufacturer as well. In 1887 he retired from active business cares, and, at sixty-six years of age, is passing his time in the supervision of his property interests and continues to make his home in Fairbury. In politics a Republican, he was elected on that ticket as the representative of Livingston County in the state legislature, and at other times has held various local offices. Of his eight children all but two are living. They are: W. A.; Lee S., who lives in Fonda, Iowa; Lizzie M., wife of William Wilson, and a resident of Paxton, Ill.; Nellie V., a widow living in Pasadena, Cal.; Guy H., in Iowa; and Estella, who has been prominent in educational matters and for several years held the principalship of the schools of El Paso, Ill.

After studying for some years in the district schools and Fairbury high school, our subject, at the age of fifteen, began to work in his father's tile factory, and soon became familiar with the business. In January, 1883, he and his brother, Lee S., came to Manhattan and built a factory for the manufacture of tile, at the same time organizing the firm of Straight Brothers, which continued for some years, until Lee S. sold his interest to his brother. The latter has since enlarged the plant, which now has a capacity for ten thousand tile per day. These he sells through agents, in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Missouri; where he has built up a large trade. While he resides in the village, he owns and manages a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he raises Norman horses and other stock; and he also has a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Livingston County, which he rents. By his marriage to Nellie M., daughter of Wesley D. Jones, of Mokena, Ill., he has six children, Natalie, Floyd W., Helen F., Arby R., LaDessa and Willis W.

Politically Mr. Straight favors Republican

**W**ILLIS A. STRAIGHT, a well-known manufacturer residing in Manhattan, was born in Fairbury, Livingston County, Ill., August 5, 1859, a son of Hon. R. C. and Francis (Abbey) Straight, natives respectively of New York and Pennsylvania. His grandfather, Arba Straight, who was a lifelong farmer, came from New York to Illinois in 1849, and settled at Fairbury. From that time until his death he tilled the soil in Livingston County. A man of deep religious convictions, he took an active part in the Baptist Church, and, at his own expense, erected a house of worship for that denomination in Fairbury. At the time of his death he was ninety-four years of age.

At the time of coming to Illinois in 1849, Hon.

principles. For four years he served as supervisor of Manhattan Township. He is connected with the Knights of the Globe at Manhattan, and has passed all of the chairs in the order, of which he is now the chief justice. Having been familiar with the tile business from youth, he is fitted to carry it forward advantageously. He is one of three brothers, all of whom have been successful manufacturers, and at one time five factories were owned by members of the family.

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**L**OUIS J. FREDERICK, M. D., a successful physician and surgeon of Joliet, is one of the skilled professional men of this city and has gained an enviable reputation in his chosen calling. Since he began in practice here, in September, 1896, he has won many friends, both professional and social, and is recognized as one of the rising men in the medical field. He has his office in the Armory block, on the corner of Chicago and Clinton streets. His success is attributable to the close attention which he gives his profession and his careful study of every form of disease, with the remedial agencies best adapted to each. Genuine love for his profession makes him a student, united with which are painstaking care and genial, gentlemanly courtesy, all being important factors in success.

The doctor's father, Louis Frederick, a native of Germany, came to the United States in boyhood and during the Civil war served in a Massachusetts regiment. For many years he was engaged in business in Chicago and he is still living in that city, but is now retired. He married a member of a pioneer family of Waukegan, Ill., and they were the parents of four sons and three daughters, our subject being the oldest of the family. He was born in Chicago October 8, 1867, and received his education in the city schools, graduating from the high school in 1884. Afterward he clerked in a drug store, in which way he became familiar with pharmacy, a knowledge that was extended by a year's study in the Chicago College of Pharmacy. While employed

in the drug business he studied medicine under Dr. A. L. Farr. In 1889 he entered Rush Medical College, from which he graduated in 1892, with the degree of M. D. In 1892 he received from Governor Fifer the appointment of assistant surgeon at the Illinois state penitentiary and continued in that position until September, 1896, when he resigned in order to engage in private practice. Since coming to this city he has established domestic ties, his wife being Lula, daughter of Capt. Charles Rost, who is a prominent resident of Will County. Mrs. Frederick was born in Tennessee, but has spent her life principally in or near Joliet, and is well known in the most select social circles. She is identified with Central Presbyterian Church and contributes to its maintenance.

All matters connected with his profession receive Dr. Frederick's attention and enlist his interest. At this writing he is physician for Will County and surgeon for the Western Stone Company. It has been his aim to keep abreast with every development made in therapeutics, and for this reason he is a constant student of his profession. In 1896 he took a course in the Post-Graduate Medical School in Chicago, and during the summer of 1899 he went east, in order to study in the Bellevue Hospital College of New York. While he is well informed in every department of medicine, his specialty has been diseases of women and children, in which field of practice he has been exceptionally successful. He is a member of the Chicago and Will County Medical Societies, and has served the latter as secretary. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the North American Union, of which latter he is examining physician. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party.

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**J**OHN FREDRICK, who has been connected with the E. Porter Brewing Company as chief engineer since July 18, 1893, was born December 2, 1857, under the stars and stripes aboard an American sailer on the Atlantic ocean



between Havre and New York. He was the third in a family consisting of four daughters and three sons, all of whom are still living. His father, Joseph, was born in Bavaria, and studied the trade of wood engraver and dyer under his father, who bore the same name as himself. During the year 1852 he came alone to America and settled in Troy, N. Y., where he was employed for three years. Being favorably impressed with this country he determined to settle here permanently, and accordingly, in 1856, returned to Germany for his family. In the latter part of 1857 they made the journey across the ocean and settled with him in Troy. Later the family removed to Albany, the same state, thence went to St. Louis, Mo. In the latter city he engaged in the oilcloth business until obliged to close out on account of the war. In 1865 he was one of the first settlers in Wausau, Wis., where he became interested in the sawmill business. Afterward he moved to Milwaukee and again engaged in the oilcloth business, but failed in that. He then operated a machine shop, in which were manufactured some inventions of his own. Finally he retired from business cares, and now, at eighty-two years of age, he makes his home in St. Paul, Minn. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Union army, serving in Company B, Second Missouri Infantry, under the gallant "Phil" Sheridan. His wife was Magdalena Richter, who was born in Weisensultz, Bohemia, and died in Milwaukee, Wis.

When the family moved from Wausau to Milwaukee the subject of this sketch was nine years of age. He soon began to work in his father's machine shop, where he learned the machinist's trade. At thirteen he became an apprentice to the trade in Johnson's machine shop, where he served for four years. In order to meet the requirements of the government when his apprenticeship was ended he secured employment on a schooner, where he remained for one year, after which for a similar period he was fireman on the "City Burge," out from Milwaukee. He then successfully passed an examination as chief engineer. Following this, he was for one year each employed as engineer on the barge "Hick-

cock," the "Josephine" and the "Norman." For a time, during the winter months, he engaged as engineer on the "St. Paul," between Milwaukee and Prairie du Chien. In 1887 he became engineer for the P. H. Best Brewing Company, and later was made their chief pump man. On the formation of the Pabst Brewing Company he took a position in their brewery and continued there until he resigned. Since July, 1893, he has been with the E. Porter Brewing Company; and under his supervision a number of improvements have been made in the plant, a new electric light having been introduced and one new boiler put in of one hundred and fifty horse power. The plant has two ice machines and all the modern improvements.

In politics Mr. Fredrick is independent. Fraternally he is connected with the Court of Honor. His home is at No. 114 South Broadway. He was united in marriage in Milwaukee to Miss Annie Schwrien, who was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, and came to America with her father, August Schwrien, who was a blacksmith in Milwaukee. The two children of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick are Lillian and Mamie.

ALFRED J. STOOS has the distinction of being the youngest dry-goods merchant in Joliet. He was born in this city January 18, 1870, and is a son of Joseph and Mary Stoos, who are represented on another page of this work. In the parochial schools principally the rudiments of his education were obtained. He then entered St. Joseph's College at Teutopolis, Ill., where he continued a student until the junior year, but at that time discontinued his studies in order to engage in business. His first position was as cash-boy in Mr. Calmer's dry-goods store, and later he was a clerk and bookkeeper in the same establishment. January 7, 1892, he was admitted into the firm as owner of one-half interest in the business, and the title was changed to Calmer & Stoos. In January, 1895, M. Cal-



mer purchased the interest of H. C. Calmer, but the firm title remained unchanged. January 12, 1897, the junior partner disposed of his interest in the company and immediately began plans for a business of his own.

March 25, 1897, Mr. Stoos opened a store in the first floor of the Barber building, where he has ample accommodations, 66x120 feet, and carries a complete assortment of dry-goods, cloaks and millinery. By reason of his good judgment in purchases he is enabled to sell at low prices, while the excellent quality of all his stock brings him a large patronage among the best people of Joliet. There is in the business world only one class of men who can attain success, and that is the class possessing energy that never wearies, enthusiasm that never yields to discouragement, and good judgment that always holds the enthusiasm in check. Such a man is Mr. Stoos. He is a representative of a family whose members for generations have been upright, persevering and energetic, and these qualities are his by inheritance.

Fraternally Mr. Stoos is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is connected with the Sharpshooters' Association and the Western Catholic Union. Some years ago he married, his wife being Miss Helen Gallinger, daughter of Alexander Gallinger, a lumberman of Oshkosh, Wis.

**A**MANDAS S. SPEICHER, a leading business man of Plainfield, was born in Berks County, Pa., December 23, 1859. When he was eight years of age his parents settled on a farm and there his youthful years were passed, his education being obtained in neighboring schools. In 1881 he started out for himself and,

coming to Plainfield, worked by the month on a farm near the village. He saved \$350, and with this for a start he married and established his home in Plainfield. He rented a farm adjoining the city limits, and for four years superintended its ninety-five acres. At first he was prospered, but finally a disastrous fire caused a loss of \$1,900 in grain and property. Meantime he had started a dray and teaming business in town, and after the fire he returned to the village, where he opened a coal yard. This he conducted for two and one-half years, in connection with his teaming. On selling the coal business he opened a livery, which he has since conducted. At the same time he began to sell buggies and other vehicles, a line of work that he has since continued, having built up the leading business of its kind in the town. In 1898 he added implements and binders to his stock in trade. During the summer of 1899 fire again caused a heavy loss, but he immediately rented new quarters and has since been prospered. Teaming, the livery business, and the sale of buggies and implements, engross his attention and keep him constantly occupied. Being strictly honest in all of his dealings he has gained the respect and confidence of other business men. Notwithstanding the misfortunes by fire with which he has met, he has never allowed himself to become discouraged, but has pressed forward with renewed energy, and has now placed his affairs upon a sound financial basis, with every prospect for future success.

In politics Mr. Speicher is a Republican and takes a lively interest in local affairs. He has never sought office and has never held any local position except that of policeman. Fraternaly he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and Plainfield Lodge No. 536, A. F. & A. M. January 19, 1886, he married Miss Adaline Neiswender, of Plainfield, and they now have three children, William Guy, Paul and Louella.





*J. Jackson*



## COL. FRED A. JACKSON.

COL. FRED A. JACKSON, late of the Third Illinois Infantry, Spanish-American war, and lieutenant-colonel of the Third Illinois National Guard, has made his home in Joliet since 1853. His connection with military affairs dates from 1876, when he entered the Joliet city corps as a private. Soon chosen first sergeant, in 1878 he was elected first lieutenant, and January 23, 1880, was elected captain, which office he held for more than twelve years. The title of major was conferred upon him in July, 1892. During this time he served successively in the Tenth and Twelfth Battalions, and Fourth and Third Regiments of Illinois National Guard. On the reorganization of the Third he was elected and commissioned lieutenant-colonel, which office he held until July, 1899, when he resigned and retired from the army. His regiment rendered active service at the time of the Braidwood strike in 1877, the LaSalle strike in 1878, the Chicago strike in 1894, again at LaSalle in 1894, and twice at Lemont.

When troops were called for, to serve in the war with Spain, the Third Regiment volunteered and he was commissioned major of the same. After a time in the camp at Springfield the regiment proceeded to Chickamauga and thence to Newport News. On the 3d of August they landed at Porto Rico, being the first soldiers to occupy Aroyo and that part of the island. With the Fourth Ohio they advanced in an attack on Guyama. August 13 they marched up Coyey road, where they expected a fight, but news being received of the signing of the protocol, they were ordered back to Wyama and thence to the United States. They arrived in this country

October 3, 1898, and were mustered out at their home station. The Third continued to have the same officers until its reorganization, when its major was promoted to be lieutenant-colonel, and afterward continued as such until his retirement from the guard. In the spring of 1899 he was nominated for town clerk on the Republican ticket and was elected by a majority of thirteen hundred and twenty-six, this being the largest majority ever received by a Republican candidate in Joliet Township. He took the oath of office April 23 for a term of one year.

Colonel Jackson was born in Springville, Susquehanna County, Pa., December 7, 1844, a son of Thomas and Julia A. (Mussey) Jackson, natives respectively of the north of Ireland and Connecticut. His father, at eighteen years of age, went to Canada, but soon crossed into New York and settled in Springville, where he carried on a dry-goods business. In 1853 he came to Joliet, where he bought grain for George Woodruff. When the Michigan Central elevator was started he managed the same for J. L. Hurd & Co., of Detroit, holding the position until his death, in 1884. He was a Republican and a member of the Episcopal Church. His wife died in 1896. They were the parents of four sons and one daughter, of whom two are living, Fred A. and Henry B., both of Joliet. When our subject was nine years of age he accompanied the family to Joliet. In 1863 he entered the employ of the Michigan Central Railroad Company as bill clerk, and continued with them for twelve years, after which he was with Hobbs & Knowlton. In 1880 he became a clerk with the Illinois Steel Company, and later was cashier, holding the

position from 1884 to 1892, when he resigned. On the Republican ticket he was elected to represent the first ward upon the board of aldermen and served until he moved from the ward. He now resides just outside of the city, where he has a comfortable home on Maple street. At one time he was connected with the Knights of Pythias. He was married in Newcastle, Pa., to Miss A. S. Crawford, who was born there. They are the parents of four sons, namely: Cleve F., who is night foreman with the Bates Machine Company; Thomas L., a locomotive engineer, who was sergeant of Company L, Third Illinois Infantry, in the Spanish war; David C., a locomotive engineer with the Grand Rapids & Northern Indiana Railroad; and Dean H., at home.

**W**ILLIAM F. BARRETT, late of Joliet, now deceased, was born in Lenox, Berkshire County, Mass., January 18, 1818. He was the oldest of three children, who were orphaned by their father's death in early life. When he was fifteen he went to Lyons, N. Y., where he clerked for Chester Yale, a brother of his mother. In 1835 Mr. Yale removed to Jackson, Mich., establishing a hardware store in that city. The young man accompanied him as a clerk and at the age of twenty-one was made a partner in the business, the two continuing together until the uncle died in 1843, after which the nephew gradually closed out the business. Coming to Joliet in July, 1850, he secured work at the tinsmith's trade with W. A. Strong, on the corner of Exchange and Bluff streets. After little more than a year he bought an interest in the business, and the firm title became Strong, Brooks and Barrett. Several years before the war he bought the interest of his partners and continued the business in the same location alone, but finally business reverses came and in 1867 he sold to T. P. Ford.

Becoming interested in the stone business, Mr. Barrett purchased Weaver's quarry, but after two years sold it and bought Capt. George

R. Dyer's hardware store on Jefferson street. In 1872 he admitted his son, John Onderdonk Barrett, as a partner, the firm title becoming W. F. Barrett & Son, and the two remained together until he died, June 5, 1878. For several terms he represented the fourth ward in the common council, being elected on the Republican ticket. He aided in the organization of the First Presbyterian Church, of which he long served as a trustee, and at the time of the erection of the church he was a member of the building committee. In 1859 he erected, on the corner of Hickory and Oneida streets, the residence where his widow now makes her home.

October 31, 1844, Mr. Barrett married Clamana Onderdonk, who was born in Holley, Orleans County, N. Y., September 10, 1823. She was one of seven children, three of whom came to Illinois. Of these, John T., who went to California in 1849, returned to Illinois in poor health and died before the Civil war; a sister, Mrs. Sarah Ganson, died in Idaho Springs, Colo. Her father, John Onderdonk, was a son of Thomas Onderdonk, a soldier in the Revolutionary war and a farmer on the Hudson River. The remote ancestors came from Holland to New York and settled at Nyack, on the west banks of the Hudson. John, who was born in Ramapo, Rockland County, N. Y., became a clothier in New York City, thence removed to Lyons, Wayne County, N. Y., where he was married, and then settled in Holley, N. Y. In 1831 the family removed to New York City, but in 1836 settled in Jackson, Mich., where, and in Albion, Mich., he also followed the clothing business. In 1850 he established his home in this county, purchasing a farm three and one-half miles southeast of Joliet, in Joliet Township, and farming the land for a few years, after which he retired. He died at the home of his daughter in Joliet when eighty-four years of age. His wife, Charity, was born in Nyack, N. Y., in 1802, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. William F. Barrett, when seventy-six years of age. She was a daughter of John Acker, a farmer near Lyons, N. Y., who in 1831 became a pioneer of Concord, Jackson County, Mich., later removed to



Joliet, and died at the home of John Onderdonk when lacking only six months of one hundred years. He was of Holland descent. His son, Henry, became a merchant of Concord, Mich., and represented his district in the Michigan legislature. Mrs. Barrett was educated in private schools in Jackson, Mich., and Haskell's Academy in Ypsilanti. In religion she is a Presbyterian, and her life has been that of an earnest, consistent Christian.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Barrett consists of three daughters and three sons. Of these, Sarah Emily, the eldest, married T. D. Baird, M. D., of Walsenburg, Colo.; Charity is the wife of H. H. Carson, of Joliet; John O., the first-born son, is at the head of the Barrett Hardware Company, in Joliet; William F., Jr., is traveling salesman for D. B. Fisk & Co., of Chicago; Elizabeth Acker resides in Joliet. Edward C., the youngest of the family, was born in Joliet February 16, 1864, and in 1880 entered the Barrett store as an apprentice to the trades of plumber, tinner, and gas-fitter. Since 1883 he has had charge of the manufacturing department. In 1885 he became a member of the firm, and upon the incorporation of the company was chosen secretary and treasurer, which offices he now fills. He married as his first wife Jennie Cullom, a niece of Senator Cullom. His present wife is Antoinette, daughter of Thomas Hobbs, and they have one child, Mary.

those for the Farragut school on the west side, the residences of M. F. Loughran, Jerome P. Stevens, C. Howard Calmer and S. F. Goodspeed in Joliet, and the high school in Center-ville, Iowa. He has erected churches, schools, business blocks, residences and buildings of all kinds, and has a business that is constantly increasing. Having made a special study of architecture, he is enabled to draw up the designs for buildings, and shows considerable taste in this direction. He owns his residence at No. 118 Akin avenue, and is interested in other real estate.

Mr. Lundstrum was born in Westrebothen, Sweden, March 3, 1868. His father, Erick, who was born and reared in the same place, followed the carpenter's trade and engaged for years in the building business in his native country. In 1869 he took his family to Sundswall, where he made his home for ten years. Crossing the ocean in 1879, accompanied by his family, he settled in Lockport, Ill., where he secured employment as a millwright and carpenter, with Norton & Co. In 1887 he came to Joliet, where he has since worked at his trade, having had charge of jobs for which his son holds the contracts. He is still quite active, notwithstanding his sixty-five useful years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Anna L. Bostrom, was born in Sweden, the daughter of a farmer; she died in Lockport in 1881, leaving six children, viz.: Mrs. Emma Anderson, of Lockport; Alick; Mrs. Lydia Walters, of Lockport; Freda L., wife of D. B. Coleman, of Lockport; Anna, who resides with her father at No. 114 Akin avenue; and Otto, a carpenter.

**A**LICK LUNDSTRUM. It was largely through the efforts of Mr. Lundstrum that the Joliet Builders' Association was organized and he was elected its first secretary, an office which he still efficiently fills. When he came to Joliet in 1888 he secured employment as a carpenter. Four years later he commenced to take contracts and has since had charge of the erection of many public buildings and private residences, not only in his home town, but throughout Will County and in Grundy and Kendall Counties. Among his contracts are

The early boyhood days of Mr. Lundstrum were passed in Sundswall, where his education was begun. When he was eleven years of age he came to America with his parents, crossing to Hull and Liverpool and from there taking a steamer to Boston. After his arrival in Lockport he spent a year in the public school, but after that was obliged to begin work and could attend school only at infrequent intervals. He has been familiar with carpentering from his earliest recollection and has always been handy with



tools. In 1882 he was employed in the building of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Joliet. When he was sixteen he secured a position in the dry-goods store of George B. Norton, with whom he remained for thirteen months. Afterward he was in the grocery establishment of Skoglund & Co., for a year, and spent a similar period in the store owned by F. F. Stowe & Son. In 1888 he came to Joliet, where he has since made his home. He possesses excellent executive ability, with the power to plan and the energy to execute work of an important nature. His contracts have been filled to the satisfaction of all concerned, and his reputation is that of a first-class builder.

A man of strong temperance principles, Mr. Lundstrum has accomplished much for the advancement of the cause of temperance. He has organized many lodges, particularly of the order of Sons of Temperance, and at one time served as grand worthy patriarch of the state of Illinois. In politics he is independent and in fraternal relations a member of Matteson Lodge, A. F. & A. M. He married, in Unionville, Iowa, Miss Christine Herteen (originally Hjertin), who was born and reared in Sweden.

**REV. PATRICK W. DUNNE.** The history of St. Patrick's Church of Joliet, which has been under the spiritual oversight of Father Dunne since January 29, 1886, dates back to a very early period in the history of Illinois. The present pastor has in his possession the records of the congregation extending from its organization to the present time. The grandest event in the history of the Roman Catholic work in Joliet was the celebration, in 1889, of the golden jubilee of the church, and the occasion will long live in the memory of all who witnessed the attending ceremonies. The pontifical high mass was celebrated by Bishop Burke, of Cheyenne, and Archbishop Riordan, of San Francisco, delivered the jubilee sermon.

At the time Father Dunne accepted this pastor-

ate the church building was in a dilapidated condition and the work in a condition far from satisfactory. He at once entered upon his duties with enthusiasm. In the remodeling of the church his father proved most helpful, and it was the latter's pride that the last work he ever did was the fitting of a house for the worship of God. A slate roof was put on and other improvements made. The church building stands four hundred feet on Hickory and three hundred feet on Broadway. In connection with it is St. Patrick's parochial school, started by the present pastor, and occupying a modern building that cost \$25,000. The six large rooms and a commodious hall furnish adequate accommodations for the two hundred pupils. The building is heated by steam and lighted by electricity. The school is in charge of the Ladies of Loretto, under whose supervision the pupils are given a thorough education in all the common branches up to the high school grade.

Father Dunne was born in Watertown, Wis., March 4, 1852, a son of Edward and Mary (Finn) Dunne, natives respectively of Queens County, Ireland, and Prince Edward Island, and a grandson of Patrick Dunne, a farmer, who emigrated from Ireland to Prince Edward Island, but died in Chicago. In 1849 Edward Dunne settled in Watertown, Wis., making the trip to Chicago via boat, thence soon afterward to Watertown, where his family joined him. He built the first church in the town and the first bridge over the Rock River; the latter, which is still standing, was built of oak timber resting on wooden pegs. In 1853 he went to Chicago and afterward built some of the first bridges in and near that city. He died in Joliet July 2, 1888, and was buried from St. Jarlath's Church, Chicago, on the 4th. He was one of nine children, there being seven brothers who came to America. One of them, Dennis, was vicar-general of the Chicago diocese for years, holding the position at the time of his death in 1867. During the Civil war he organized a regiment that was known as the Dunne legion (later the Irish legion.) The crowning work of his life was the building and conduct of an orphan asylum on Archer avenue, Chicago,

and it was through overwork in the carrying forward of this work that his fatal illness was brought on.

In many respects Edward Dunne possessed more than ordinary ability. He was exceedingly quick in grasping plans and ideas, and in the completion of contracts was prompt and energetic. He built the first Magdaline asylum in Chicago, but, just before the work was completed, the building burned to the ground, entailing a heavy loss upon him. He was a faithful church member and for thirty-five years had the same pew in church. His fifteen children were reared to usefulness and habits of honesty and energy, and the ten still living are men and women of intelligence. One son, William, graduated from Rush Medical College with the highest honors of his class, and during the Civil war was a surgeon in the Second Illinois Infantry, after which he was city physician of Chicago for years; his death occurred in Chicago. A daughter, Rose, is a sister in the order of Loretto, in Toronto, Canada. Michael is assistant manager of the New Planter's Hotel in Chicago; Felix is a bookkeeper in that city; and Dennis will complete his education and enter the priesthood in 1901. The mother, who was the only child of Felix Finn, resides with her daughter in Chicago, and is now seventy years of age. For the past nineteen years not a week has elapsed without her son, Patrick, visiting her.

From an early age Father Dunne was destined for the priesthood. He was educated in Christian Brothers' Academy, on Adams and Desplaines streets, Chicago; St. Charles College at Ellicott City, Md., where he studied the classics from 1869 to 1875; and St. Mary's Seminary, where he took two years in philosophy under the direction of the Sulpician Fathers and three years in theology. December 20, 1879, he was ordained by Cardinal Gibbons in the Cathedral in Baltimore, and was assigned to the Chicago diocese. Returning west, he was sent to Joliet as assistant of St. Mary's parish, where he remained for six years, under Father Burke, now bishop of the St. Joe (Mo.) diocese. On the death of Father Power, of St. Patrick's, he was

assigned to this place, which was his first and has been his only pastorate. This is the "mother" of the Roman Catholic churches of Joliet, and out of it have sprung five other organizations that have become potent factors in the religious life of these several localities.

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**O**LAGUS B. LUNDAHL, who is one of Joliet's most reliable stone masons and cutters, first came to this city in 1870, but the following year went to Des Moines, Iowa, and secured work at his trade. He did not return to Joliet until 1891, twenty years after he had first come to the town. Since then he has successfully engaged at his trade here, and has been selected to act as superintendent of different contracts, among them the building of the Silver Cross hospital, Universalist block, Woodland schoolhouse, Park avenue schoolhouse and the Bush block. He built the house at No. 607 Second avenue, where he makes his home.

Four miles from Gottenburg, near Alingsas, in Elsborslaen, Westrejutland, the subject of this sketch was born March 21, 1839, a son of Borg and Catherine Martinson. His father, who was a farmer's son, was reared to agricultural pursuits, which he continued to follow as long as he lived. In religion he and his wife were faithful members of the Lutheran Church. They were the parents of four sons and two daughters, of whom two sons (one in Sweden and the other in America) are now living. Olagus B. was reared on the home farm and from a very early age aided in the cultivation of the land, thus being prevented from attending school regularly. In 1868 he came to this country. His first location was at Mankato, Minn., where he was employed as a stone mason for two years. From there he went to Chicago, Ill., in 1870, but during the same year secured employment at his trade in Joliet. In 1871 he went to Des Moines, Iowa, where for eight years he was employed in the cutting of granite and sandstone for the state



capitol. When the capitol building was completed he began to work as a contractor in the stone-cutting business, and continued in the same city until his return to Joliet. He is a member of the Stone Cutter's Union and takes a warm interest in everything pertaining to the stone business. He has never been active in politics, although he is well posted concerning public affairs and votes with the Republican party. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran Church and has been a member of its board of trustees.

During his residence in Des Moines Mr. Lundahl was married, in that city, December 27, 1872, to Miss Mary Peterson, who was born in Stavager, Norway. They have three daughters, Anna, Ida and Nellie. Mrs. Lundahl was one of nine children, all but two of whom attained manhood or womanhood and six are now living, two sons being in Iowa, while the others (except herself) remain in Norway. She crossed the ocean in 1870 on a sailing vessel, arriving in New York after a voyage of seven weeks. After spending a short time in Story County, Iowa, she settled in Des Moines, where she met and married Mr. Lundahl. She is a daughter of Peter Oleson, a farmer, who owned the homestead "Haaland." Her mother, Gunnill, was a daughter of Storkaare, a farmer who owned "Ostenstad." Mr. Oleson passed away some time ago, but his wife is still living, and remains at the old homestead in Norway.

**HENRY BENJAMIN SMITH.** The family represented by this well-known citizen of Joliet was founded in America by Thomas Smith, a weaver of Ramsey, England, who came to the United States prior to 1635 and settled in Ipswich, Mass. During 1635 he removed to Newbury, Mass. His second son and third child, James, was born September 10, 1645, and during the colonial wars held the office of lieutenant in the army. The eighth child born of his marriage to Sarah Coker was Benjamin, who was born

August 21, 1681, and who married Mrs. Hannah Sooms. Their third child, Benjamin, was born August 9, 1712, and married Dorothy Ballard, of Andover, Mass. The second child born of their marriage was Benjamin, whose birth occurred October 15, 1736. By his union with Johanna Lund, the second child was Benjamin, born June 2, 1765. The latter, when a mere boy, enlisted in the colonial army and served in the first war with England. While in the army he carried a flint-lock gun, which he had made himself and which is now in the possession of the subject of this sketch. He married Edy Adams and their oldest child, Benjamin, born March 26, 1791, married Alma Maranda Strong, April 26, 1826. The next generation was represented by Henry Sumner Smith, our subject's father, who was born August 3, 1832, in Rutland, Vt. Reared on his father's farm, he left home to learn the machinist's trade, and this occupation he followed for a short time. When gold was discovered in California and the news reached his far-away eastern home, he, with the enthusiasm of youth, determined to seek his fortune on the Pacific shore. Taking passage on a sailing vessel, he went around the Horn and finally reached his destination. He engaged in mining both in California and Nevada. Finding, however, that mining was not very congenial nor profitable, he returned to San Francisco and engaged in the iron manufacturing business. The firm of Prendergast & Smith became one of the largest of its kind in the west, and their products, especially their marine and stationary engines, had a large sale throughout the country. In public affairs he was for years a leading figure in San Francisco, being a local Republican leader, and at one time he was his party's candidate for congress. He was also one of the most prominent Masons in California and held official positions of great responsibility in the fraternity. He died in San Francisco November 12, 1878, when forty-six years of age.

August 18, 1861, occurred the marriage of Henry Sumner Smith to Clara Record, who was born near Bath, Me., and died in San Francisco, Cal., December 4, 1875. They were the parents



of six children. Henry Benjamin, the oldest of the family, was born in San Francisco October 6, 1862. His education was acquired principally in the California Military Academy at Oakland. Upon leaving school he came to Joliet to make his home with his uncle, Horace S. Smith, who, at that time, was general superintendent of the Joliet Steel Company. For a time he studied in the Bloomington (Ill.) high school. He entered the machine shop of the Joliet Steel Company as an apprentice to the trade, serving for four years, and afterward continuing the trade. In 1889 he was made assistant superintendent of the rod mill under William Garrett, the inventor and builder of the same. When the works were shut down, in 1893, he was appointed safety inspector and claim adjuster for the company, a position that he has since held. He was secretary of the Sun Printing Company, job printers and publishers of the Joliet *Daily Sun*, which later was sold to the Joliet Republican Printing Company. At the organization of the Royal Oil Company he was appointed president and continued as such until the works were sold to the American Oil Company.

In Bloomington, Ill., February 1, 1894, Mr. Smith married Miss Lucy Delia Luce, daughter of Dr. Albert Hull and Lucinda (Dawson) Luce. Her great-grandfather Luce brought his family to America and settled in Wayne County, N. Y., where her grandfather, Joseph Luce, was born and reared. Her father, a pioneer physician of McLean County, Ill., first practiced in Leroy, but soon removed to Bloomington, where he remained a popular physician and esteemed citizen until his death in 1885. He was the first president of the McLean County Medical Association. His wife, who was born in Bloomington Township, McLean County, in 1826, is now making her home with Mrs. Smith. She is a descendant of Revolutionary forefathers. Her father, John Henry Dawson, and a Mr. Hendricks, were the two first white settlers in McLean County, and he became the owner of large tracts of land, but his last days were spent in Fort Dodge, Iowa, where he died a very aged man. He served under the famous leader William Henry Harrison during

the war of 1812, and it was while in the army that he had his first glimpse of western life, and he was so pleased with the prospects that he determined to locate in Illinois. Mrs. Smith was given excellent advantages when a girl and is a graduate of the Chicago Female College. In religion she is of the Episcopalian belief and attends Christ Church. The only child of Mr. and Mrs. Smith is named Horace Benjamin, and was born November 18, 1895. He represents the tenth generation—in direct descent, and is the seventh to bear the name "Benjamin."

The connection of Mr. Smith with military matters dates from 1883. He then enlisted as a private in Company B, Fourth Illinois Infantry. The next year he was appointed regimental quartermaster-sergeant. In July, 1886, Governor Oglesby commissioned him first lieutenant in the Fourth Regiment, and later he was appointed quartermaster in the Third Regiment. By a special act of the legislature the quartermaster was given the rank and title of captain, which he has since held. May 7, 1898, he enlisted in the Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which he accompanied to Chickamauga National Park, Ga., thence to Newport News and from there to Porto Rico, where he participated in the island campaign in the war with Spain. He was mustered out at Joliet with the regiment, after an honorable and official service, January 24, 1899.

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**G**EORGE BURGESS, master mechanic of the Joliet plant of the Illinois Steel Company, became a machinist at J. P. Withrow's, in Newcastle, Pa. He next worked under Robinson & Ray, in Pittsburg, Pa., for two years and then in the Union Works of the old Illinois Steel Company in Chicago. After one year he was made foreman of the machine shop, and continued as such for two years. His next position was that of night master mechanic. After a year he became assistant master mechanic of the works. When the mill shut down he went to South Chi-

cago as chief engineer of the rail mill of the Illinois Steel Company. On the reopening of the Union mill he returned as assistant master mechanic and in 1895 was promoted to be master mechanic. In 1896 the mill closed down again and he was sent to Joliet to take charge of the plant in this city, where he has remained ever since.

Tracing the ancestry of the Burgess family, we find that John Burgess, Sr., was born in Spain, his father having gone to that country from Scotland. When sixteen years of age he settled in New Jersey. For many years he was engaged in the canning of oysters along the Chesapeake. He now resides in Philadelphia. His wife, Elizabeth, is still living, and is ninety-two years of age. Their son, John, Jr., was born in Camden, N. J., and learned the saddler's trade in Pittsburg, Pa. At the opening of the Civil war he enlisted twice, but each time the company was disbanded before being called into service. On his third enlistment he was detailed in the garrison at Pittsburg, where he engaged in the manufacture of harness. When the war ended he started in the harness business in Newcastle, Pa. From there, in 1893, he removed to Youngstown, Ohio, where he now makes his home. In politics he favors the Republican party, in religion is an elder in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and fraternally is connected with the Masons and Odd Fellows. He is a man of strong temperance principles and upright life.

The wife of John Burgess, Jr., was Annie Taylor, who was born in Wellsville, W. Va., a daughter of Thomas and Annie Taylor, natives of England. Her father, on coming to America, engaged in mining at Pottsville, Pa. Before railroads had been built he crossed the Alleghanies to West Virginia, where he followed coal mining until his death. His wife also died in West Virginia.

The family of John Burgess, Jr., consisted of two sons and two daughters, three of whom reside in Youngstown, Ohio, and George, the oldest, in Joliet, Ill. He was born in Newcastle, Pa., August 14, 1864, and studied in the public schools of the native town. When sixteen years of age he began to study dentistry with Dr.

Green of Newcastle, with whom he remained for four years. Meantime, however, he had become interested in mechanical work, and his taste in that direction was so pronounced that he abandoned dentistry. He entered the machine shop of Withrow & Gordon, with whom he served an apprenticeship of three years. Afterward he was employed in the building of the water works at Pittsburg, Pa., for two years. In 1884 he started west, intending to go to California, but, instead, stopped in Chicago, and he has since made his home in this state. He was married in Chicago to Miss Marie Cklacy, a native of New York City. They have three sons, George, Jr., Lorain and Eugene.

In politics Mr. Burgess is a Republican. He was made a Mason in Lodge No. 310, A. F. & A. M., in Chicago, and later became connected with Lafayette Chapter, R. A. M., and Apollo Commandery, K. T., of Chicago. During his residence in Newcastle he was a member of the lodge and encampment of Odd Fellows, and he is now connected with the Modern Woodmen of America.

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**D**AVID D. BARRETT, a well-known business man of Joliet, was born in Jackson Township, this county, September 3, 1854, a son of Lansing and Margaret A. (Hampton) Barrett, natives respectively of Ontario, Canada, and the Isle of Man. His paternal grandfather about 1840 brought his family from Canada to Illinois, settling in Jackson Township, Will County, where he improved a farm from the wild prairie. He died in Joliet when almost one hundred years of age. The maternal grandfather, John Hampton, who was born on the Isle of Man, April 1, 1800, grew to manhood and married there. On coming to America he settled in Cleveland, Ohio, but after one year, in 1841, he came to Illinois, settling in Jackson Township, this county, and improving a farm from a bare, unimproved tract of land. He aided in the building of the Chicago & Alton Railroad through



his township and a station was established on his farm that was called Hampton. Prominent in local affairs he wielded an influence for good among his fellow-citizens. He died in Joliet in 1884.

Reared on a farm, Lansing Barrett became a stock-dealer and brought from Canada the first merino sheep introduced into this county. During the gold excitement of 1859 he went to Pike's Peak, intending to bring back to Illinois a bunch of mountain horses, but was taken sick on the way and compelled to return. He died shortly afterward, when only twenty-six years of age. His wife is still living and makes her home at No. 216 Cassaday avenue, Joliet. Our subject, who was the only child born of the marriage, was taken into the home of his mother's father, but at the age of seven went to St. Louis to make his home with an uncle. He attended the schools of that city until he was fourteen. On his return to this county he took charge of his grandfather's farm, but after four years he came to Joliet, and for two years attended school. The cooper's trade he learned under Joseph Winterbottom, for whom in time he became superintendent, remaining with the same employer for fourteen years.

June 12, 1887, Mr. Barrett started in the livery business, buying Mr. Bennett's interest in the firm of Cook & Bennett, and continuing with L. M. Cook under the title of Cook & Barrett. After eighteen months he sold out and ten days later he bought out Merrill & Potter, on the corner of Scott and Van Buren streets, where he has since carried on a large business. The building which he occupies is 60x160, with an L 60x120, being the largest barn under one roof in the city. In the livery, boarding and transfer business he has built up a large trade, and he also has horses on sale, owning a number that are unusually fine. His "David H." is a three-year old pacer, with a record of 2:20. He also raised "Minnie B.," that paced one-half mile at 1:09, when two years of age, but before the next season was accidentally injured.

In national politics Mr. Barrett is a Republican. He is connected with the Modern Wood-

men of America and the Uniform Rank, K. of P. He was united in marriage, in Bondfield, Ill., with Isabelle, daughter of John Linebarger, a grain dealer in Elwood, this county. They are the parents of three children, Howard, Gladys and Mabel.

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HON. A. B. HALLOCK, postmaster of Peotone, and a former member of the Illinois legislature, was born at Lake Zurich, Lake County, Ill., May 20, 1854, a son of Rev. Joseph Addison and Maria (Brockway) Hallock. Of the original family of six, all but one are still living. Minerva is the widow of John W. Kreamer, who was a member of the noted law firm of Hurd, Booth & Kreamer, of Chicago; Roby is the wife of H. H. Kleinman, of South Chicago; Isadore married L. H. Fountain, an expert bookkeeper and accountant, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; and Eleanor is the wife of F. H. Hague, one of the proprietors of the Chicago Knife works.

Rev. Joseph Addison Hallock was a first cousin of Fitzgreen Hallock, the famous poet. He was born at Peru, Clinton County, N. Y., in 1811 and acquired his education in Burlington (Vt.) College. At twenty-one years of age he entered the Methodist ministry as a circuit rider in western Pennsylvania. He was of Quaker parentage and was the first of the family to leave the faith. He was among the first agitators of anti-slavery and had on his place a station of the underground railroad, by which means many black men and women were assisted across the border. That early anti-slavery agitator and martyr, Lovejoy, of Alton, Ill., frequently visited him, and Allen Pinkerton was also a familiar figure at his fireside. As early as 1842 he was one of three men in Elk County, Pa., to cast a vote for an anti-slavery candidate for president. Because of the attitude of the Methodist Church toward slavery, he severed his connection with that denomination early in the beginning of the anti-slavery crusade, and united with the Congregational Church, filling various of its important pulpits. In 1883, when



he went to Florida as a missionary among the freedmen, he connected himself with the Presbyterians. Returning north in 1890, he settled at Peotone, Ill., where during the next five years he preached occasionally, but accepted no regular charge. In 1895 he went to Chicago and there the last years of his life were spent with his daughter, Mrs. Hague. His entire mature life was devoted to the cause of Christ, and during his more than sixty years of labor in the ministry he was instrumental in accomplishing much for the spiritual uplifting of his fellowmen. He had come west in 1842, settling in Lake County, Ill., where he homesteaded a tract of land, the deed to which was signed by James K. Polk. He was familiar with Chicago when the now magnificent city was a straggling village. One of his brothers, Hon. Isaac Hallock, had settled in Chicago in 1831, when the town had but fifty-two inhabitants outside the fort, and when it was a common sight to see wolves crossing the river at Randolph street.

The Hallocks are descended from Peter Hallock, one of the thirteen Pilgrim Fathers (including Rev. John Youngs), who came from England in 1640 and landed in New Haven. There, on the 21st of October, of the same year, Mr. Youngs gathered his congregation together under the auspices of Rev. John Davenport and Hon. Theophilus Eaton, governor of the New Haven colony, which had been planted two years before, April 18, 1638, under a spreading oak tree; a virtual theocracy, taking the Bible as its code of laws, ecclesiastical and civil. With his congregation, Mr. Youngs crossed the sound to Long Island in the latter part of 1640, and took up his abode in Southold, landing at the harbor of what is now Southold village. These thirteen men and their families were the first white settlers in the northeastern part of Long Island. Peter Hallock was the first of the thirteen to step on the shore. Fearlessly he left the boat and stepped out among the Indians who gazed wonderingly upon their strange visitors. That part of Southold is to this day known as Hallock's Neck. From the Indians he purchased the tract since called Oyster Ponds. Returning to England, he brought back his family, but found the Indians had resold his tract,

and he then purchased ten miles west of Southold a farm extending from Long Island Sound to Peconic bay, a distance of three miles. He settled in Aquebogue, two miles west of Mattituck village and creek, all of these places being then in Southold Township. William, the only son of Peter Hallock, had four sons, of whom John, our subject's ancestor, was the only one to leave the church of his forefathers and unite with the Society of Friends. For this act he was disinherited. His son, Peter, was the father of Peter and the grandfather of Rev. Joseph Addison Hallock.

Our subject's maternal grandfather was John Smith, but when a child of six weeks he was adopted into the Brockway family and was always known as John Brockway. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and his father and father-in-law were Revolutionary soldiers.

When only four years of age our subject was given his first glimpse into text-book wisdom, his teacher being his father, who at that time taught at Lake Zurich, Lake County, Ill. Three years later his parents removed to Palatine, Ill., where he studied in the common schools. After six years there the family removed to Salem, Iowa, where his father preached for a year. Later, while his mother was visiting at Lake Zurich, she was taken ill and died. The father then took the family to Chicago and established what is now known as the Leavitt Street Congregational Church, on Leavitt and Adams streets. Later our subject spent two years with relatives on a farm in Kankakee and Will Counties. At twenty years of age he returned to Chicago and began his business career. September 10, 1874, he was sworn into the clerical service of the Chicago postoffice, where he remained until April 14, 1875. He was then appointed letter carrier, and for eight years was employed in that capacity, resigning March 1, 1883, in order to accept an appointment as deputy sheriff under Seth Hanchett. After fourteen months of service he was relieved by the sheriff because he refused to betray General Logan when the latter was a candidate for president in 1884, Mr. Hallock having been appointed through the personal request of General Logan and his friends. Later the sheriff

sent for him and wished to reinstate him, but Mr. Hallock refused to accept. He then left Chicago and came to Peotone, where he was engaged at various occupations.

In 1889 Mr. Hallock was appointed postmaster at Peotone under President Harrison. On Cleveland's second election, Mr. Hallock, on account of his activity as a Republican, was removed from the position. He then purchased a photographic business, which he continued up to 1897. He was elected in November, 1894, on the Republican ticket, to the state legislature by the largest majority ever recorded in the district up to that time. He served in the thirty-ninth general assembly with credit to himself and honor to his constituents. During his service he was chairman of the committee on fish and game laws and was active in Will County's interests on the drainage canal legislation, also worked for the school text book bill. In 1897 he was elected first assistant doorkeeper of the fortieth general assembly, receiving sixty-five out of eighty-three votes. In May, 1897, he was again appointed postmaster at Peotone. Largely through his efforts the office has since been made one of the third class.

The marriage of Mr. Hallock, July 3, 1877, united him with Miss Margaret Bruce, who was born in Lockport, this county, a daughter of Hugh and Ann (Arthur) Bruce, natives of Scotland. Her parents immigrated to America after the birth of several children and settled in Canada about 1842. A few years were spent there, and they then came to Illinois, settling first in Lockport and later in Peotone, where they were pioneers. During the Civil war the family gave three sons to the Union service. One of these, William Bruce, gave his life for his country and is now in a soldier's grave at Mission Ridge. Another, Hugh, Jr., returned home from the front, but soon died of wounds received in the service. The third, James Bruce, resides at Lake City, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Hallock have two daughters, Laura M. and Belle M. The former is a graduate of the Peotone schools and now holds the position of assistant postmaster. The latter is now attending a normal school and has a teacher's certificate.

Fraternally Mr. Hallock is connected with Peotone Lodge No. 636, A. F. & A. M.; and Green Tree Camp No. 1405, Modern Woodmen of America, in which he is Venerable Counsel and which he has represented in the head camp at all conventions held since the organization of the camp at Peotone. In the First Presbyterian Church of Peotone he is a trustee and a Sunday-school worker. He is a member of the Woodman quartet, well-known campaign singers of this section, whose voices have been heard and echoed at some of the largest political gatherings in this part of the state, and whose four members are also connected with the Presbyterian choir.

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AUGUST G. LUTH, superintendent of the cooper shop of Norton & Co., at Lockport, was born in Prussia, Germany, September 30, 1857, a son of John and Mary Luth, also natives of Prussia. His father, who was the son of a hero of Waterloo, was for years connected with a large estate in Prussia, but in 1871 brought his family to America and settled in Detroit, Mich., where he has since made his home. Of his five children, the second forms the subject of this sketch. He was educated principally in his native land. In 1871 he came with the family from Hamburg to New York, thence to Detroit, where he was employed in a tobacco house for a time. For two years he worked at the painter's trade, but the business proved very unhealthful, and he was obliged to make a change. Next he served an apprenticeship of three years to the cooper's trade in a large cooper shop in Detroit, after which he worked with John Wagner, of the same city, for ten years. His next position was in the Anchor works, where he spent two years. He assisted in the organization of the Detroit Co-Operative Cooper Works, and was the first superintendent of the shop, which he managed for two years. On resigning the position he traveled for B. M. Madlock in the cooper business, his route extending through New York, Maryland, Penn-



sylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Canada. After two years as traveling salesman he resigned the position.

The year 1893 found Mr. Luth in Lockport as superintendent of the large cooper shop of Norton & Co., which position he has since filled with recognized efficiency. The shop turns out more than one thousand barrels per day, and other articles of a similar nature are also manufactured. Under his supervision the machinery was remodeled and the plant enlarged, thus increasing the producing quality. He devotes himself very closely to his work and takes little time for recreation or participation in public affairs. While he is not active in politics, he keeps himself posted and votes with the Republican party in national elections. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is also a member of the Order of Rebekahs.

In Detroit, Mich., Mr. Luth married Miss Catherine Lockman, by whom he had six children. Edward is with his father in the cooper shop. William, the second son, was accidentally shot in the hand by a blank cartridge on the 4th of July, 1899. Blood poisoning set in and he died of lockjaw on the 9th of the same month. The other children are August, Ella, Emma and Harry.

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JAMES D. FRAZER, of Homer Township, was born in Pittsford, Monroe County, N. Y., October 5, 1821, a son of James G. and Mary (Hawkins) Frazer, natives respectively of Massachusetts and Connecticut. His maternal ancestors came from Holland, and his paternal from Scotland. The first of the Frazer family in this country settled in Massachusetts during the colonial period and served in the Revolutionary war. The father of our subject was born near Boston June 24, 1789, and during the war of 1812 served in the American army near Lake Champlain. When about twenty-five years of age he removed to New York and there engaged in farming,

abandoning the trade of hatter which he had previously learned. In 1850 he came to Illinois and made his home with his son, James D., dying here in 1869, when eighty years of age. His wife also died in this county when seventy-two years old. They were the parents of nine children, but only three are now living, James D.; Martha, the widow of Mahlon Gregg; of Rochester, N. Y.; and Jane, who is the wife of William Hindman, of Corunna, Mich.

From an early age our subject was familiar with the work of a farm and on leaving home he hired out to farmers by the month. In 1849 he and his brother Harmon V. came to Illinois and bought land in section 30, Homer Township, this county, where they embarked in farm pursuits. The brother continued to reside here until his death, May 5, 1892. In 1863 our subject settled on the farm where he now resides, and on this place he conducts general farming and stock-raising. Since coming west he has resided continuously in this county with the exception of nineteen months (1852-53) spent in the mines of California, principally in the Mount Shasta region, where he met with fair success as a miner. For several years he served as supervisor of Homer Township, and he has aided in the building of schools and churches, and in other improvements for the benefit of the community. Politically he is independent. He was the first treasurer of Lockport Lodge No. 538, A. F. & A. M., of which he was the first treasurer. He assisted in organizing the Homer Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of which he was president for a number of years.

In 1857 Mr. Frazer married Miss Mary F. Lane, who was born in Pittsburg, Monroe County, N. Y., September 4, 1830, and was brought to Illinois by her parents in 1833. Through her mother, she traces her lineage to James Olmstead, who landed in New England in 1632, and established his home in the wilds of Connecticut. The Olmstead family originated in Germany, but in the early part of the sixteenth century settled in Cambridge, England, and from there came to America. Mrs. Frazer is a daughter of John Lane, Sr., who was born in Maine on the Kennebec River and in 1833



took up a claim in Yankee settlement (now Homer Township) this county, where he became known as the "village blacksmith." As the inventor of the first steel plow he gained prominence among agriculturists. By his marriage to Luey Olmstead, a native of Connecticut, he had four children, but only two survive, Mrs. Martha Warner, of Albion, Mich., and Mrs. Frazer. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Frazer consists of three children, namely: John D., a farmer in Homer Township; Mattie J., who married J. H. Corvell and resides in York, Neb.; and Mary F., wife of W. M. Nye, of Monroe County, N. Y.

**J**OHN LANE, SR. The following account of the origin and history of the first steel plow, with which the name of Mr. Lane is indissolubly associated, was written by the late Dr. John F. Daggett.

At the ninth annual meeting of the old settlers of Will County, held in Joliet in September, 1890, the writer was appointed one of the committee to gather facts relating to the invention and manufacture of the steel plow, the use of which has proved of national importance, and is essential to agricultural progress and the convenience of farming. The older members of this community can recall the inconvenience and vexation caused by the old wooden plow. The history of the plow is interesting and important, as by its use the civilized nations of the globe are fed and nourished. A history of this implement, tracing its gradual progress from the ancient type to the improved form of the present day, is necessarily a history of agriculture; so much is this the case that a tolerably correct estimate of the progress of the art in any country, whether in ancient or modern times, may be formed by ascertaining the structure of the plow in use at any date.

The principal object of this address is to do a deserved but long neglected honor to the memory of John Lane, Sr., who was the inventor and maker of the first steel plow that was ever made

in this or any other country. The value of this invention to the world cannot be overestimated. The name of John Lane, Sr., should stand side by side with that of Fulton, Morse and McCormick, as one of the great inventors of the country. The first steel plow was made in 1835 by Mr. Lane (who was an accomplished mechanic as well as practical farmer) at his shop on section 20, in the town of Homer (early and commonly known as Yankee settlement), in the county of Will, state of Illinois. He was assisted in the making of the plow by Levi Hartwell, who was then quite a young man. In 1835, after years of hard labor and delay in cleaning his old wooden or cast iron plow (using a wooden paddle to remove the sticky soil), Mr. Lane was inspired with the idea of making a plow of steel, which he thought would keep bright and need no cleaning. At that time there was no steel manufactory in the United States where the mould board of a plow could be constructed. Mr. Lane secured an old mill saw from the West Lockport sawmill. The saw was cut in pieces of the required length, and the edges welded together to get the needed width for the mould board. This was then hammered or pressed into proper shape, then ground and polished to working condition. To get the best shape, Mr. Lane would test the workings of the plow in his own fields, and alter the shape as his judgment dictated. The woodwork of the plow was made by John Griswold of Lockport, as was the woodwork of hundreds of Lane plows thereafter. The plow was sold to Comstock Hanford of Lockport, and used until it wore out. The oldest steel plow made by Mr. Lane, now in existence, is in the possession of J. D. Frazer, and was made in 1849.

Mr. Lane continued to manufacture the plow for a year or more before steel was manufactured wide enough for a mould board. The mould boards of the first two hundred plows were made of old sawmill saws, obtained in Chicago at \$1 per foot. The first steel plate wide enough to use was obtained from a firm in Pittsburg, Pa. From that date he manufactured with Mr. Hartwell, but the demand was greater than the supply and in time became worldwide. Factories were es-

tablished and shipments made to distant points. In 1854 one hundred plows were shipped via New York and the cape to California, and were the first steel plows sent to the Pacific coast. After the death of Mr. Lane, which occurred October 5, 1857, when he was sixty-five years of age, Mr. Hartwell continued the manufacture of the plow, and John Lane, Jr., who had learned the trade in his father's shop, carried on the manufacture in Lockport for many years. He became the inventor and patentee of a number of important improvements in the manufacture of plate steel for plows.

Though often advised to do so, John Lane, Sr., absolutely refused to have his invention patented, saying that if others could be benefited by his ideas he was glad to be of service to them and wished no remuneration for it.

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JOHN C. OWENS, M. D. That Dr. Owens is a man of versatile ability, his successful connection with various enterprises amply proves. It is, however, to his profession that he has been most devoted and in which he has been most deeply interested. Since 1881, the year of his graduation, he has largely given his time and attention to the highest temporal mission among men, a combat with disease and death. His efficiency, skill and signal success in his profession are well known, and his practice is not limited to Plainfield, his home town, but extends throughout the surrounding country. He is also the owner of a drug store and a harness shop in Plainfield and a farm of two hundred acres in Na-au-say Township, Kendall County, all of which he personally superintends.

The Owens family was established in New York in 1832. The doctor's grandfather, Hugh Owens, was a farmer and local minister, and for some years resided near Utica, but his last days were spent in Remsen. Henry Owens, father of the doctor, was born in Wales and accompanied the family to America when only five years of

age. Six years later he left home, on account of his treatment by his stepmother. Afterward he worked on a farm. When he married he moved to a farm in the town of Ava, which he had purchased before his marriage. Much of his time was spent in splitting timber in the woods; this timber he used in the manufacture of oars, large sales of which he made to the government during the Civil war. At times he had six men in his employ. In 1867 he went to Vernon, Oneida County, where he carried on a large hay and dairy farm. For five years he carried on a large dairy farm near Vernon, after which he sold the place and moved to Vernon, at the same time buying a farm of one hundred and eighty-three acres in the outskirts of the town. For four years he operated that place. When advanced in years he retired from active labors and the remainder of his days was spent in the enjoyment of the comforts his industry rendered possible. He died in 1891, when seventy years of age. He was a staunch Republican, but not a politician, and never held office. In religious views he was a Presbyterian.

The mother of the doctor bore the maiden name of Nancy Kees and was a daughter of Alanson and Fanny Kees. She was born in Western Township, Oneida County, N. Y., and died in the same county when fifty years of age. From childhood she was connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church. She was a devoted wife and mother and her memory is dear to the hearts of her children. Her older son, James A., is now engaged in the drug business in Rome, N. Y.; the daughter, Fannie J., is the wife of Norman Mowers, also of Rome; the youngest of the family is John C., of this sketch. He was born in Western Township, Oneida County, January 3, 1857. His education was begun in district schools, and was supplemented by careful reading and by habits of observation. When he was eighteen he left the farm and began to work in a drug store, in that way gaining his rudimentary knowledge of medicines. While there he formed a resolution to become a physician, but realizing his need of a better literary education, he entered Cazenovia Seminary, where



he studied for a year. He then began to study medicine with Dr. H. C. Palmer, of Rome, N. Y., with whom he continued for six months. Next he matriculated in the medical department of the Syracuse University, where in two and one-half years he completed the regular three years' course, graduating June 9, 1881. After a vacation of three months he entered the Rochester city hospital, where he continued until May, 1882, meantime taking a special course in the study of diseases of the eye. May 30, 1882, found him starting for the west, where he had decided to locate. He arrived in Joliet in August, and continued there until January 30, 1883, when he came to Plainfield. Here he has since engaged in continuous practice. Since coming here he has taken a warm interest in local affairs and, as a Republican, has had considerable to do with the mapping out of the party campaigns here. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. December 5, 1883, he married Miss Mary H. Hitchcock, of Morris, Ill., and by this union three children were born, one that died in infancy, and Kenneth H. and Jay C., both at home.

**G**EORGE M. PEAIRS, M. D., of Joliet, is secretary of the Will County Medical Society and, since June, 1897, secretary of the board of pension examiners, in both of which he has been a leading member. In 1894 he was appointed by the Illinois Steel Company as their surgeon in Joliet and has since acted in this capacity. He is also surgeon for the Chicago, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad and assistant surgeon for the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad, and attending physician and surgeon at St. Joseph's hospital. Among the residents of Joliet his skill as a physician is recognized and he is given a high place in the medical fraternity of the city. He has his office in the Barber building and gives his attention very closely to professional work. To keep in touch with every development in the medical science has been his

aim, and for this reason he has been a constant student of the profession. In the spring of 1899 he took a course in bacteriology and pathology under Professor Klebs in the Chicago Post-Graduate Medical College, and each winter he takes a course in surgery under that eminent surgeon, Dr. Senn.

The Peairs family is of English and Welsh descent. Henry Peairs, a native of New England, engaged in farming in Pennsylvania and from there removed to Ohio, settling on a farm at Dunean's Falls, near Zanesville, where he died at eighty-nine years of age. His wife, whose family name was Robinson, died at the age of eighty-seven. Their son, H. R., a native of Ohio, graduated from Washington College, Pittsburgh, and entered the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. While he was holding a pastorate at Kenton, Hardin County, Ohio, his son, George M., was born December 18, 1866. Later he was stationed at Harrison, Ohio. In 1871 he accepted a call to Heyworth, McLean County, Ill., where he remained for ten years, and afterward was for four years at Normal, in the same county. Next he went to Clayton, Adams County, Ill., where ill health forced him to relinquish ministerial work. He returned to Normal, Ill., where he died in 1895. His wife, who was Sarah A. Hope, was born in Pittsburg, Pa., and is now living in Normal, Ill. She was a daughter of Edward Hope, a contractor in Pittsburg.

The family of Rev. H. R. and Sarah A. Peairs numbered six children, of whom four are living, Mary, George M., Harry J. and Ralph. The oldest son, who forms the subject of this sketch, was reared in Illinois and received his education in the Heyworth and Normal schools, preparing for college in the high school department of the Illinois University at Normal. However, instead of entering college, he at once turned his attention to the study of medicine, reading with Dr. J. N. Black, of Clayton, Ill. In 1888 he entered Rush Medical College, from which he graduated in 1891, with the degree of M. D. While there he took special courses in gynecology and diseases of the eye. In 1891 he accepted an appointment as surgeon in the Illinois Steel Com-



pany's hospital at South Chicago. The following year he removed to Morris, Ill., where he remained for two years, meantime holding the office of county physician. Since 1894 he has engaged in practice in Joliet. He is a member of the Illinois State Medical Society and the International Association of Railway Surgeons, and attended the convention of the latter organization in Richmond in 1899. While he is not active in politics he has a thorough knowledge of national issues and affiliates with the Republican party. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of Pythias of Joliet, and Cedar Lodge, A. F. & A. M., at Morris.

December 10, 1894, Dr. Peairs married Miss Jessie Hayes, who was born in Ohio and is a graduate of the Oberlin conservatory of music. Her father, Gen. P. C. Hayes, a journalist of great brilliancy, held the rank of general during the Civil war and won lustre through his skilled leadership of Union forces. Afterward coming to Illinois he held the position of editor of the *Morris Herald* and later was at the head of the *Joliet Republican*, but is now living in retirement in this city. He has been prominent in the Loyal Legion. Dr. and Mrs. Peairs are members of the First Presbyterian Church of Joliet and are prominent in the city's best society. They are the parents of one child living, Muriel Lucile.

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**P**ETER STAUFFENBERG. When a child of three years Mr. Stauffenberg was brought by his parents to Will County, and here he has since made his home. He is thoroughly conversant with the history of the county and has assisted in the development of its agricultural resources, having from an early age engaged actively in general farm pursuits. In 1883 he

settled on section 13, Manhattan Township, where he had previously purchased one hundred and sixty acres of farm land. He has since resided on this place, meantime giving his attention to its cultivation and to making improvements that will increase its value. His landed possessions aggregate four hundred and eighty acres, which represents his industrious efforts in past years.

Mr. Stauffenberg is the son of a German bearing the same Christian name as his own and who came to the United States in 1840, settling in Pennsylvania. In 1846, three years after the birth of his son, our subject, he came west to Illinois and bought a farm in Frankfort Township, this county, where he afterward engaged extensively in farming. He died in Greengarden Township when seventy-five years of age. By his marriage to Catherine Stauffenberg, of Germany, he had three children, Henry, a farmer in Greengarden Township; Margaret and Peter. The last-named was educated in common schools. In childhood he acquired a thorough knowledge of agricultural pursuits. As soon as he was large enough to do so, he began to plough and sow. When he came to the time that it was necessary to select a life occupation, he chose the one with which he was most familiar and from which he might reasonably hope to secure the best returns. The energy with which he has carried on his work proves that his choice was an excellent one and that he is fitted for agricultural pursuits. He takes an interest in maintaining a high class of improvements on his place and is anxious that his farm shall compare favorably with the best in the township. For ten years he served as school director of his district, a position that he filled with fidelity and intelligence.

In 1867 Mr. Stauffenberg married Miss Minnie Hansen, who was born in Germany and died in this county in 1879. They were the parents of three children, namely: Edward, John and Katie, wife of John Bankow.





*Austin Godfrey*



## AUSTIN GODFREY.

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**A**USTIN GODFREY. As an example of the helpful lives which men of character and perseverance may live, mention may justly be made of Austin Godfrey, the prominent farmer and dairyman of Lockport Township. He is a member of a pioneer family of this county, and has himself made his home here from a very early age. He was born in Erie County, N. Y., August 31, 1822. His father, Henry, a native of Vermont, was left an orphan at three years of age. With but few advantages in youth, he nevertheless became a man of fine character and excellent standing. Settling in Erie County, N. Y., he took up a tract of timber land twenty-five miles from Buffalo, and this he cleared and cultivated. During the war of 1812 he served as quartermaster, and was in Buffalo at the time it was burned. While living in New York he married Candace Warren, by whom he had four sons and two daughters, Austin being the youngest and the only one now living.

Candace Warren was a daughter of Jabez and Hannah (Sumner) Warren, the latter of an old family who fought in the Revolutionary war. Jabez Warren's mother married a second time, her husband being an Englishman who was ever loyal to King George, and in his daily prayers prayed for the success of the English. This was more than the patriotic spirit of young Jabez could brook, and he ran away from home at the age of sixteen, enlisting in the colonial army, and fighting in many of the battles of the Revolution. Finally he settled in Vermont and reared his family. From there he moved to Aurora, Erie County, N. Y. By occupation he is a surveyor.

When our subject was a boy of eleven, October 1, 1833, the family came west and settled in

Will County, Ill. The father and the oldest son took up one hundred and sixty acres each, a part of which is in what is now Dupage Township, Will County (then Cook). When Austin was fourteen the land was divided, and he and the brother next in age to him conducted, together, what was known as the Godfrey farm, on the stage line from Chicago to Ottawa. They had charge not only of the farm, but also of the tavern and stage horses. The partnership continued until our subject was twenty-five, when the property was divided, he continuing on the same place. In 1874 he went to Joliet for the purpose of giving his children educational advantages. There he built a residence and spent two years. On his return to the farm he resumed its management. In 1886 he bought two hundred and forty-seven acres, comprising the old Hawley farm. Here he built a residence, granary and an addition to the barn. The old part of the barn, which is still standing, was the first frame barn of any size built in Will County. Besides this place, on which he lives, he owns four other farms, which he rents. Since coming to his present location he has given his attention more especially to the dairy business, in which he has been notably successful. On his place he has between fifty and sixty head of milch cows, all of the Holstein breed. In order that the cattle may go to either side of the main road, without necessitating the opening of gates, he built a passage way under the road, an idea that has proved an excellent one. The grain raised on the farm is almost wholly used for feed. All the improvements on the place are modern and indicate that the owner is a man of intelligence and progressive spirit.

As a Republican, Mr. Godfrey has been active

in local politics. He has served as supervisor, highway commissioner, school director and trustee, filling each office with the intelligence and energy noticeable in his conduct of private affairs. His accumulations are the result of energy and industry, intelligently applied. His enterprise and ability have won for him a popularity that is a permanent tribute to his merit. During the long years spent in this county he has seen the country bloom and blossom as the rose, and has taken a deep interest in its progress. As a citizen he has always been public-spirited, and as a farmer and dairyman thrifty and energetic.

By his first wife, Lavinia Warren, Mr. Godfrey had two children, one now living, Emma A., wife of George W. Potter, of Joliet. After his first wife's death Mr. Godfrey married Miss Lucy Denton, who was born in Henryville, Canada, December 3, 1837, a daughter of Capt. John and Sylvia (Harrington) Denton. The latter's mother was a sister of Rev. Hosea Ballou, the noted Universalist divine, and who was of French-Huguenot descent; her grandfather was state surveyor in Vermont, and belonged to a noted family in which were many professional men. Capt. John Denton, who was a son of William Denton, a Revolutionary soldier, was born in Massachusetts, and became an exhorter and local preacher in the Methodist Church. He spent many years in Canada, during which time he took part in the Canadian war of 1837, as a captain in the British army. From Canada he moved to Dupage County, Ill., in 1847, and settled on a farm near Naperville, where he died two years afterward, at the age of sixty. His wife, a native of Vermont and a member of an old and influential family of that state, died in Lockport when almost eighty-two years of age. They were the parents of eight children who reached maturity and married, and of these five are living. Miriam is the widow of Samuel Wilson, of Lockport; William J., a resident of Lockport for years, died there at the age of sixty-six; Leonora married Edward Welch and lives in Iowa; James L. is a retired farmer in this township; Lury (a twin of Mrs. Godfrey) is the wife

of Jonas Beach, of Lockport; and Abigail, who married George Besse, died when thirty-five years of age. When Mrs. Godfrey was nine years of age, in 1847, she moved with her parents to Dupage County, Ill. Much of the time since then she has made her home in Will County. After completing her schooling she taught for three years. In religion she is a Congregationalist, to which faith all of her children also adhere. Her second son, Howard, is deceased. The others are named as follows: Herbert A., a farmer of this township; Daisy C., wife of Arthur Jones, living in Michigan; Carrie, Mrs. William Monro, also of Michigan; Arthur M., who assists in the management of the home place; Guy R. and Roy S., both of whom are with their parents.

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**A** BRAHAM G. NOEL, who is living retired at No. 304 North Eastern avenue, Joliet, is one of the pioneers of this county, having come here with a brother in 1848. Shortly after his arrival he bought land three and one-half miles south of Joliet, on the Wilmington road, but soon afterward he sold his interest to his brother. In 1850 he brought his family to this county from Carroll County, Ind., arriving in Joliet October 14, and purchasing a tract adjoining his brother's land. With a team of oxen he broke the sod, turning the first furrows in the soil. His method of planting corn was primitive; with an axe he cut a hole in the sod, into which he dropped the corn, then lightly covered the seed with dirt, a method of working which would be considered extremely slow in this progressive age. The years that followed were filled with cares; yet they were happy times, and he looks back upon the pioneer days as the most delightful of his life. The increase in prices of land affected him favorably, making him well-to-do, a result which his industry and energy had contributed to secure. For nearly forty years he lived the busy life of a farmer, plough-



ing, sowing, reaping, harvesting, each day bringing its special duty, each night bringing a well-earned repose. Finally, in the fall of 1886, he sold his farm and removed to Joliet, where he has since made his home.

Mr. Noel was born in Scioto County, Ohio, January 29, 1809. Two miles from his early home was the site of a long-abandoned military post, no record of which was kept in that locality. However, the presence of bullets in the walls indicated that the fort had been used during the days of firearms. When a boy he used to explore the remains of this fort. He found an embankment four feet high, enclosing about one hundred acres, in which was a passage of about forty rods to a spring, this passage being enclosed by an embankment eight feet high, enclosing two acres. There was also a passage to what was probably the arsenal, enclosing about one-fourth of an acre.

When a boy our subject's grandfather, Peter Noel, came to America from Holland. He settled in Virginia, where he learned the weaver's trade. At the opening of the Revolutionary war he and his brother enlisted, remaining at the front until peace was declared. Afterward he followed his trade and cultivated a farm. In 1793 he removed to Ohio, where he died. By his marriage to Sophia Good he had thirteen children, all of whom attained mature years and married. The third of these, Peter, was fourteen years of age when the family settled in Ohio. He assisted in clearing the home farm, which was heavily timbered. In youth he learned the trade of a gunsmith, which he followed throughout much of his life. Indians were very troublesome, but annoyed them very little except in stealing horses. The men of the family were known to be good shots, hence were avoided by the savages. On the breaking out of the war of 1812 he was sent as a scout and guide with the riflemen who were ordered to Hull to bring up the cattle and ammunition to Detroit. For this work of guide he was well adapted, for he was a thorough woodsman and could tell the points of the compass at night by feeling the bark of the trees. When he had taken the rifle-

men as far as Finley's block house, eighteen miles from Detroit, they were notified of Hull's surrender and were paroled. Afterward he and his son Abraham each had a severe attack of fever, and the latter bears to this day a scar on his neck where he was lanced.

On recovering, Peter Noel re-enlisted in the war of 1812, in which he was promoted to be a colonel, and our subject now has the sword he carried. He returned to his home at the close of the war and followed his trade, also operated a saw-mill for seventeen years. He remained in Ohio until 1850, when he came to Illinois, and in the spring of 1851 died at his son's home in Will County, aged seventy-one years. At the time that he left Ohio he owned three farms. He bought land in Will County in 1848, but did not come here until two years later. In politics he voted with the Whigs. In the year 1840 seventy-six of his name voted the Whig ticket in Scioto County, the only one who deserted the party having done so for a woman's sake. For twenty-one years he served as justice of the peace, and for a similar period was county commissioner. As long as he remained in Ohio he commanded a battalion of riflemen there. He had no desire for political positions and, though urged to accept a nomination to congress, declined the honor. Had he so desired, he could have had any office within the gift of the people, for he was a man of great influence. From boyhood he was fond of hunting, an ardent and successful sportsman, and always wanted to be within easy reach of game. In 1833 he, our subject, and two others were out hunting at the time of the shooting stars, which made the night as light as day, an interesting phenomenon which our subject vividly recalls; at this time, in the month of October, the same year, he shot forty-seven deer and our subject shot thirty-seven, while one was shot by both, making a total of eighty-five deer that fell beneath their unerring aim.

In Ohio, Peter Noel married Susannah, daughter of Sir Joseph DeFort, a nobleman of France, who came to America at the beginning of the Revolution, and served in the American army as sergeant. Afterward he settled in New Jersey,



removing from there to Ohio, and making the trip in the same boat with our subject's father. Two sons and three daughters comprised the family of Peter and Susannah Noel, namely: Joseph, Abraham, Mary, Sophia and Mercy, of whom our subject alone survives. He had few educational advantages when a boy, except those obtained in subscription schools; he worked early and late on the home farm. After his marriage, November 4, 1837, he bought a farm and began life for himself. In 1844 he removed to Indiana and bought a farm of which only eleven acres had been cleared. From there he came to Will County, October 14, 1848, after which he aided in the development of its agricultural resources. May 10, 1875, his wife died, aged fifty-six years. He then made a trip to Oregon with his family, but did not like the country and returned to this county, well content to spend his remaining years here. In politics he was a Republican. For several years he served as school trustee. His wife, Eveline, was a daughter of Gregory and Elizabeth (Taylor) Glasscock, the latter a cousin of Zachary Taylor. Her father, a native of Virginia, but for years a resident of Ohio, served in the first war with England. Five children were born to the union of Abraham Noel and Eveline Glasscock. All were daughters. Mary Ann is the wife of Lewis Linebarger, a banker in Iowa. Sophia, deceased, was educated in the Will County schools, and was an accomplished lady whose many good qualities of head and heart endeared her to all who knew her. As a teacher she was eminently successful, and her good work and precepts will keep her memory alive in a new generation. Susan married Joseph Campbell, a prosperous grain dealer of Lacon, Ill. Sarah married James Watkins, and is now deceased. Melvina M. is the widow of Carlos F. Long, and resides with her father. Since 1850 Mr. Noel has been a director of the Desplaines Cemetery Association, in whose burial ground many pioneers and several Revolutionary soldiers are buried.

Carlos F. Long, who married the youngest daughter of Mr. Noel, was born in Winnebago County, Ill., May 19, 1856. When but three

years of age he was brought by his parents to Will County. For a time he worked as book-keeper in James Ducker's store at Mokena, and later was cashier in the same establishment. Afterward he had charge of the settlement of the Ducker estate, being connected with the family for twenty-four years, and until his death, April 8, 1899. His father, Benjamin F. Long, who was a volunteer in the One Hundredth Illinois Infantry, during the Civil war, participated in many a hard fought battle, and died in a hospital while at the front.

Politically Mr. Long was a Republican. He united himself with the Methodist Church when nineteen years of age, and continued to hold his membership in that denomination until his death. He was a man of upright character, honest, moral and conscientious, and his death was widely mourned as a loss to the citizenship of the county. May 1, 1895, he married Melvina M. Noel, who was educated in the Joliet high school and graduated in music from the Valparaiso Normal School in Indiana. She taught school for ten years, and later taught music. She is a lady whose accomplishment and culture fit her to grace any society which she may enter.

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JOHN ONDERDONK BARRETT. The people of Joliet claim that they have in their city the finest hardware store in the United States. A walk through the Barrett block, on the corner of Chicago and Clinton streets, usually causes the stranger to accept this assertion as true. The entire space of the block, four floors, 66x160, is occupied by the company, who furnish employment to fifty hands and have the largest wholesale and retail hardware store in this section of the state. The front of the basement is utilized as a salesroom, while in the rear is the machinery for cutting and threading pipe from two and one-half to eight inches in diameter. The first floor is devoted to the display of stock and the retail business, on the second is the manu-

facturing department, while the third is used for the storage of stock. Power, heat and light are furnished by electricity. The stock includes every variety of tinware, hardware, stoves, agricultural implements, etc., and experienced timers, plumbers and gasfitters are furnished on request, together with the articles necessary for their work. The success of the business is largely due to the wise judgment and tireless energy of J. O. Barrett, who, December 19, 1891, incorporated the Barrett Hardware Company, with himself as president, and his brother, Edward C., as secretary and treasurer. He was also one of the organizers of the Joliet National Bank, in which he has been a director from the first.

In the city where he now lives, Mr. Barrett was born March 16, 1851, a son of William F. and Clamana (Onderdonk) Barrett. When sixteen years of age he acquired his first insight into the hardware business, and for two years afterward he clerked for his father and for Mr. Ford. In 1872 he became a partner in business with his father. After their store burned they began in business anew, continuing together until his father died in 1876. The firm moved into the New Akin block built for them and acquired a constantly increasing stock and trade. In time the firm name was changed to Barrett & Sons, a younger son, Edward C., being admitted as a partner, and the two sons have continued together since that time. Inheriting from their father a talent for business affairs, they have added to the business which he established and to the reputation which he gained. Their honorable methods, fair dealings and sagacity of judgment are universally recognized. Those who come into business relations with them find them men of honor and integrity; indeed, it is from these qualities and their great energy that their success has come, and the prosperity that has rewarded their efforts in the past is a happy omen of what the future holds for them.

The demands of his business have been such that Mr. Barrett has had no leisure for public affairs and, aside from voting the Republican ticket, he has taken no part in politics. At different times he has bought and improved real estate in

Joliet, and is now especially interested in the Zarley tract. His marriage, in this city, united him with Miss Mary C. Warren, who was born in Shrewsbury, Mass., and at the age of twelve years came to Joliet in company with her uncle, Calvin Knowlton, who was president of the Will County National Bank.

ALFRED J. LINDGREN, deputy sheriff, is one of the well-known Swedish-American citizens of Joliet, where he has made his home since 1887. His present position as deputy he has held continuously since 1894, being under John Francis for four years, and since then, by reappointment, under Sheriff Mattinger. During most of the time he has been court deputy as well. Ever since he became an American citizen he has given his allegiance to the Republican party, being in hearty accord with its principles of protection and sound money. Since the organization of the Swedish-American Republican Club he has been actively connected with it as secretary, and he is also a prominent member of the State League of Republican Clubs.

The oldest of four children, of whom he and Mrs. Tulin, of Princeton, Ill., are the survivors, our subject was born in Hinerydsoken, Kronoberg, Smaland, Sweden, January 27, 1860, a son of C. G. and Stina (Magnusdotter) Lindgren. His mother died in 1883. His father, a farmer, came to America in 1869 and settled near Princeton, Ill., where he has since resided. For a few years our subject had the advantage of study in the public schools at Princeton, where he added to the knowledge gained in the Swedish schools. In the spring of 1873 his parents moved to Lockport, but in the fall of the following year returned to Princeton and afterward he resided there, assisting his father in the cultivation of a farm.

Coming to Joliet in 1888 Mr. Lindgren became an employe in the wire mill, but soon left and accepted a clerkship in Charles Johnson's grocery, where he remained until his appointment as deputy sheriff. He is an enterprising



and liberal man, thoroughly American in everything but birth and love for his native land, and is imbued with the spirit of American energy and progress. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of the Globe. In the work of the Swedish Mission Church he has been a valuable assistant, being clerk of the congregation and a member of the board of trustees, and at the time of the rebuilding of the church he served upon the committee having the matter in charge.

The first wife of Mr. Lindgren was Miss Ella Johnson, who was born in Princeton, her parents having settled there as early as 1853. She died in Joliet, leaving four children, Edith, Otto, Florence and Harry. The second marriage of Mr. Lindgren also took place in Princeton, his wife being Miss Mathilda Nalean, who was born and educated in that town.

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**F**RANK HUBENET is one of the best-known Swedish-American citizens of Joliet, where he resides at No. 309 Harris avenue. He is president of the Swedish-American Republican Club, the largest organization of its kind in Joliet, and the prominence which it has gained is almost wholly due to his energy and wise leadership. As secretary of the Knights of the Globe he is identified with another local organization. In the Swedish Lutheran Church he serves as secretary of the congregation, a member of the board of trustees and president of the benefit society connected with the church. An active worker in Joliet Observatory No. 8, North Star Benefit Association, he holds the principal office (that of astronomer) in the lodge and is chief conductor of the Grand Observatory, with headquarters in Moline, Ill. In 1890 he was appointed a special agent to collect statistics of manufactures in Joliet city and township, in the interests of the United States census. At this writing he is township oil inspector for Joliet.

About two hundred and fifty years ago the

Hübenette family removed from France to Norrland, Sweden, during the reign of Gustavus Adolphus. Our subject's grandfather, who was born in Norrland, was superintendent of a large furnace there. The father, L. W. Hübenette, is a business man of that place and is now seventy-five years of age, while his wife, Ulricka Elenora (Kellberg) Hübenette, is seventy-three. Of their eight children, two sons and four daughters are living, one son and two daughters being in America. Frank, who was sixth in order of birth, was born at Norrland December 30, 1862. He was educated in public schools and a gymnasium. Coming to the United States in 1881, he settled in Joliet, Ill., where he was employed in different stone quarries for five years, after which he became manager of a branch coal office of Hunter & Curtis. In 1891 the office was discontinued, at which time he started for himself, opening an office at No. 603 Cass street, and beginning in the coal and coke business. His location is convenient and a siding connects his yards with the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad. Since coming to this city he has married, his wife being Ellen Anderson, a native of Sweden. They have six children: William Waldemar, Edith Elenora, Ebba Henrietta, Blenda Linnea and two boy twins, Lief Lincoln and Grant Thorsten.

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**J**OSEPH C. BRISBANE, who is engaged in dairying and farming on section 14, New Lenox Township, was born in Cook County, Ill., in 1863, a son of James W. and Dorothy (Caldwell) Brisbane, natives respectively of Scotland and the north of Canada. His father came to the United States in 1858 and settled in Cook County, Ill., where he followed the trades of blacksmith, wagon-maker, carpenter and cabinet-maker. About 1873 he removed to this county and later settled on a farm near New Lenox. Since 1880 he has made his home on his present farm near the village and here he has carried on general agricultural pursuits. His wife died



March 17, 1897, leaving five children, namely: Joseph C.; Jeannette W., who has been a successful teacher for twelve years and is now connected with the schools at South Englewood; Dorothy, wife of Charles Cooper; Martha, wife of William Patrick; and Mary, still at home.

At the time the family settled in this county our subject was ten years of age. He grew to manhood in the township of Crete, one and one-half miles from the village of that name. His education was received in common schools, under the supervision mainly of William H. Evans. For some years he carried on farming in connection with his father, but in 1885 he settled on his present farm, which he purchased in 1889. He is now the owner of one hundred and eight acres, devoted principally to the pasturage of milch cows, and carries on a large and profitable dairy business. Thoroughly familiar with practical dairying, in all of its phases, he is qualified to carry on a business satisfactory to others and remunerative to himself.

On the Republican ticket Mr. Brisbane was elected township collector, which office he filled for one year. The office of school director he filled for ten years, during a part of which time he was clerk of the board. In the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is a member, he has served as trustee and steward for some time, and is also secretary of the building committee now in course of erection. His marriage, in 1885, united him with Emma J., daughter of John J. Willis, of New Lenox Township; and they have one child, Vernice E.

age settled in Oneida County, N. Y., and thence, when Francis was six years old, removed to Chautauqua County, the same state. There the boy grew to manhood. Reared on a farm amid frontier surroundings he had no educational advantages, and even if schools had been numerous his health would have interfered with his attendance. Not being strong enough for manual labor on a farm he took up the tailor's trade, which he followed. A few years after his marriage in Westfield, N. Y., he started for Illinois, driving across the country with his wife in a covered wagon. The trip was safely made, although at one time he was followed by robbers for a whole day, but reached a settlement by night and so escaped from them. When he arrived in Joliet the town contained forty buildings, including stores, barns and residences. His first meal in the county was in the Yankee Settlement. Settling about seven miles north of Joliet on the road west of the river he spent a short time there. In 1837 he opened a tavern on Bluff street, and was there when the first stage drove through to Joliet. He saw the first canal boat on the Illinois and Michigan canal and the first railroad train ever run into Joliet. Later he resumed his trade, which he followed for some time. For seven years he clerked for Mr. Wilcox. Prior to 1860 he started in the grocery business with his son, but not finding the enterprise profitable he took up tailoring again, and at this he continued until he was past eighty years of age. In politics he was a strong Democrat. For years he served as vestryman and warden of the Episcopal Church, in the work of which he was quite active. His life was protracted to a great age, for he was ninety-three when he died in February, 1896. During the long period of his residence in Joliet he witnessed its steady growth and took pleasure in noting its progress. Personally he was a man of quiet and retiring disposition.

The first wife of Mr. Nicholson died when she was a young woman. Afterward he married Mary Ann Burdge, member of a Holland-Dutch family of New Jersey. Mrs. Nicholson was a woman of ability, energy, great kindliness of heart, and an excellent conversationalist. She

**F**RANCIS NICHOLSON, deceased, was one of the early settlers of Joliet, having come here in 1836. He was born in New Hartford, Oneida County, N. Y., a son of Jared Nicholson, and a member of an old and honored American family whose ancestry is traced back to Governor Nicholson of Connecticut. His father was born in Connecticut, but at an early

was fond of reading and kept well posted in the progress of current events and in politics. Possessing a deeply religious nature she did all within her power for the advancement of Christianity, and was instrumental in the upbuilding of the Episcopal Church. In homes where sickness came her presence brought comfort, and her careful nursing did much to restore the sick one to health; indeed she had quite a local reputation as a nurse.

Four children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, three of whom attained maturity. Both of the sons are now deceased. The older, Frank, went to California in 1850 and engaged in prospecting and mining there. He married there and reared a family of eight children. The younger son, Harman, enlisted in the second Michigan Cavalry immediately after the first battle of Bull Run. Entering as a private he was promoted successively to second and first lieutenant and captain, and at the close of the war was commissioned major in recognition of gallant service. Much of his service was under Sheridan in Virginia and Tennessee. At his death he left four children.

The only surviving member of the family is Mr. Nicholson's daughter, Katherine Sophia. She was born in a house that stood on North Hickory street, Joliet. Her earliest years were associated with pioneer events and experiences in the rapidly growing frontier town. For fifty-six years she made her home in the family residence on Exchange street, but during some of that time she was employed in other cities, although always considering Joliet her home. In order to aid the family she took up teaching, which occupation she followed for eleven years in California and Illinois. For six years she was employed as bookkeeper in a store in Muskegon, Mich., after which she held the position of librarian of the Joliet public library for eleven years. In 1870 she went to California, where she taught for two years. In 1880 she started a greenhouse in Joliet, and this she conducted successfully until her retirement from business in 1898. The property she has since rented. She owns and occupies a residence which she erected in 1898,

and in which she has as a companion a young girl whom she is rearing, Mary Adele Nicholson. She is a woman of excellent business ability, and at the same time, has genial, kindly ways that win and retain warm friends.

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**HENRY ALEXANDER.** Through his active participation in enterprises for the benefit of his city and county and his progressive spirit as a citizen, Mr. Alexander has become one of the influential men of Joliet. No one has taken a deeper interest than he in measures calculated to benefit the people or to develop the material resources of the county, and he has been generous to the point of self-sacrifice in his gifts of time and means to promote projects of undoubted value. The position of supervisor which he held gave him an opportunity for aiding public movements. While acting in that capacity he was instrumental in securing the erection of the sheriff's residence, the rebuilding of the county jail, the making of many improvements in the court house and county poor farm, and the general improvement of county roads and bridges, and in each of these instances he served upon the special committee appointed by the board of supervisors. While he usually encountered no opposition in his desire to secure improvements, occasionally he had to hold his own against heavy odds, and this was especially the case at the time of the bill introduced to secure an elevator in the court house; after a hard struggle he was successful and the building now has a fine elevator. During the severe depression that followed the panic of 1893 he acted as superintendent of the poor, the position taking almost his entire time; he discharged its duties efficiently, and no worthy man who applied for help suffered from hunger and cold.

A resident of Joliet since 1881, Mr. Alexander was born in Stuttgart, Wurtemberg, Germany, a son of Isaac and Theresa (Neumann) Alexander. His maternal grandfather, Solomon Neumann, was a hardware merchant, and his paternal



grandfather, Simon Alexander, a farmer, was one of the few soldiers that returned with Napoleon from the ill-fated expedition to Moscow. Isaac Alexander was a dealer in antiquities and an authority in that line. He died while visiting a daughter in Bavaria. His wife died in Germany. Of their children, five are living, three being in the old country, and Henry and Robert in America.

In Stuttgart, where he was born January 12, 1849, our subject was educated in a private school. In 1866 he took passage at Havre for New York, and on arriving in this country proceeded to Alexandria, Va., where he clerked in a mercantile store until 1868. Afterward he had stores successively in Front Royal, Edenburg and Shenandoah, that state. Selling out in 1870, he returned to Germany and entered the commissary department of the German army, serving through the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71. Afterward he engaged in the livestock business. Returning to the United States in 1880, he was for a short time interested in the stock business in Syracuse and Ithaca, N. Y., and in September, 1881, came to Joliet, where he began a wholesale meat business that he has continued to the present time. In 1892 he was elected assistant supervisor and two years later was chosen supervisor, which position, together with that of superintendent of the poor, he held for two years. Largely through his efforts, in 1895, a bill passed the legislature authorizing the establishment of an asylum for the incurable insane of Illinois. In August of that year Governor Altgeld appointed him one of the commissioners to locate the institution, notwithstanding the fact that he is a staunch Republican in politics. He served as secretary of the board of commissioners and took an active part in securing the location of the asylum in Peoria. March 17, 1897, Governor Tanner reappointed him to the same office and he was made chairman of the board and assisted actively in planning for and starting the construction of the building. In February, 1898, he resigned from the board and in April of the same year he was appointed special agent for the quartermaster's department of the

United States army, to buy horses and mules for the army, which position he has since filled. He has frequently served as a member of the county central committee and in other ways has promoted the welfare of the Republican party in his vicinity.

The home of Mr. Alexander, at No. 1000 South Joliet street, is presided over by his wife, whom he married in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1874, and who was Amelia Auerbach, a niece of Berthold Auerbach, the celebrated author and novelist. The four children comprising their family are: Theresa, wife of Sig. Goldstein, of Moline, Ill.; Bertha, Sigmund and Adell, at home.

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**R**ICHARD J. BARR, city attorney of Joliet, is a member of the law firm of Meers & Barr, and is well known in the profession. His personal popularity is indicated by his election to the city attorney's office in the spring of 1899, when he was the only one elected on the Republican ticket, receiving a majority of twenty-four, while some of the Democratic candidates had majorities as large as one thousand. He has been a Republican from boyhood to the present time, and believes that the principles of this political organization are best calculated to secure the progress of free government and perpetuate our national institutions on the basis proposed by the founders of the Republic.

His education was carried on in the high school of Joliet, after which he taught school at Manhattan and Wilton Center. He afterwards matriculated in the University of Illinois, where he spent four years in the classical course of study. Next he went to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and there received the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1895. His class presented to the university a bronze bust of Judge Cooley which cost \$600. The presentation ceremony was made a memorable event and was appropriately celebrated. Dr. James B. Angell represented the university, Governor Rich the



state, and Judge Hornblower, of New York, the nation. The members of the class selected Mr. Barr to represent them, and the presentation speech which he made was published afterward in book form. While in the University of Illinois he also gave evidence of unusual ability as an orator and debater. He was president of the Illinois Oratorical Association, and also president of his class. He was elected editor-in-chief of the class annual, the "Illio," which was originated by the class and compiled by him. The precedent thus established has been maintained by subsequent classes.

Upon graduating from the university in June, 1895, Mr. Barr came to Joliet, and in August of the same year he opened an office in this city. He practiced law alone until April 1, 1897, when the present firm of Meers & Barr was formed. Fraternally he is a member of Mount Joliet Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; Knights of the Globe; Mound City Camp, Modern Woodmen of America, and Paul Revere Lodge, Knights of Pythias. Should nothing unforeseen prevent a prosperous future in his chosen profession may safely be predicted of Mr. Barr. With his enterprise, which enabled him to secure a finished education, he has since surmounted obstacles in his path and has risen to a position of prominence among the members of his profession.

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**J**OHN DAY. No man in the county is more worthy of respect than Mr. Day, who for so many years has been connected with the agricultural interests of Dupage Township, but is now to some extent retired from active cares, and makes his home in Plainfield. He is one of the pioneers who laid the foundation for the present prosperity of this region. Being industrious and careful, as well as a good manager, he made a success of his farm work. On renting his farm he moved to Plainfield and bought a place, which he has since made his home, having rebuilt and improved the residence, besides putting up a

house to the east. While he is practically retired, he still farms ten acres, this affording him a chance for some work in the occupation of which he is fond, while at the same time it does not overtax his energies.

In Lincolnshire, England, Mr. Day was born April 2, 1836, a son of John and Rebecca (Briccols) Day. He was the third among four children, of whom Mary and William died in this country and Sophia in England. His educational advantages were very meagre, as he was obliged to support himself from an early age. When he was thirteen he had an opportunity to come to America, but his parents refused their consent, so he continued at home until he was eighteen. He then crossed in an old sailing vessel that had more than one thousand passengers and consumed seven weeks in the voyage. As he had started with a family that had two of its members in Will County, he was induced to come here, making the trip via the canal and lakes from New York. Arriving in this county, he secured work on a farm just west of Plainfield, and he was beginning to get a nice foothold in his new home when, in the fall, an attack of typhoid fever rendered him unable to work for three months. On regaining his strength he resumed his work. After two years he sent for his parents, who joined him in Will County. After the latter came, father and son cultivated a farm of ninety-one acres in Dupage Township, which our subject had purchased. At a later date ninety-one acres additional were purchased, thus making a valuable farm, on which he first raised wheat and afterward corn and oats. Starting in with a few head of stock, he added to them from time to time and gave considerable attention to the cattle business and dairying. He also raised horses. In 1880 his father was killed by a bull, and afterward the entire supervision of the place fell upon him. In addition to his property here he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Iowa, of which he now owns eighty acres.

Though not desiring to be prominent in politics, Mr. Day is a man of firm convictions, and believes staunchly in Republican principles. For some twelve years he held the office of school di-

rector. In religion a Methodist, he has served the congregation in Plainfield as a trustee for some years. Just prior to the Civil war he married Catherine Stratton, who came to this county in 1854, the year of Mr. Day's arrival here. When the war opened he desired to enlist in the army and fight for the Union, but his wife urged him so strongly not to do so that he gave up the hope. Of the six children born to his marriage only two are living. Sophia is the wife of Frank Gordon, of Hamilton County, Iowa; and Carrie married Fred Morgan, of this county.

he attended the district schools in Lockport Township and the Northwestern College at Plainfield. The first business in which he engaged was that of merchandising, in which he continued for twelve years. For a similar period he was interested in the manufacture of tiles, supplying the local markets. With two gentlemen as partners, he built up an extensive and profitable business. Though no longer connected with the business, personally, he is still interested in the plant. He owns both city and farm property, which he rents.

As a Republican, Mr. Fraser has been identified with local politics. For some sixteen years he has served as a member of the village board. For three terms he filled the office of mayor, and during his administration many improvements were introduced, including the establishment of the waterworks. In 1876 he was made a Mason. He is a member of Plainfield Lodge No. 536, A. F. & A. M., in which he has been secretary and treasurer. He is connected with the Congregational Church, in which he is treasurer of the church and librarian of the Sunday-school. In 1871 he married Ellen E., daughter of Jonathan Hagar, of this county. Two children were born of this union, but one died in infancy. The son, Merton H., lived to be almost twenty years of age, but died at Socorro, N. M., where he had gone with the hope of benefiting his health. After the death of his first wife Mr. Fraser was again married, being united, September 3, 1885, with Lettie J., daughter of J. H. Smiley, of Plainfield. They have two daughters, Elma E. and Marion E.

**C**HARLES E. FRASER is one of the progressive citizens of Plainfield, to whom is due much of the credit for the substantial improvements noticeable in the place. He was born in Sullivan County, N. Y., November 17, 1845, a son of James R. and Eliza (Brown) Fraser. He was the oldest of six children, of whom one died in infancy and Leila in girlhood. Thomas B., the second son, is a retired merchant living in Sterling, Neb.; Anna M. is the wife of Joseph Vinson, of Joliet; and Willard A. is principal of the schools of Rutland, Vt. The father was one of the twelve children of Robert Fraser, who came to this country from Ireland, and was of Scotch-Irish descent. After settling in New York he engaged in agricultural pursuits. During the war of 1812 he served in the American army.

After having engaged in farming in New York for a number of years, our subject's father came to Illinois in 1855 and settled first in Plainfield and next in Lockport Township, this county, where he improved a farm. He continued to reside on this place until his death, at fifty-six years of age. On the Democratic ticket he was elected road commissioner, which office he filled for several years. He took an active part in the work of the United Presbyterian Church. At the time he moved west his son, our subject, was a lad of ten years, and for some time afterward

**G**EORGE B. HAMLIN, M. D., of Frankfort Station, one of the county's prominent physicians, was born in Odell, Livingston County, Ill., February 4, 1866, a son of Dr. Thomas H. and Ellen (Bateman) Hamlin. His paternal ancestors were of English stock. His grandfather, Thomas Hamlin, came from England to the United States in an early day and settled in



Huntingdon, Pa., where he followed the occupation of a veterinary surgeon for many years. As early as 1848 he settled in Livingston County, Ill., where the remaining years of his life were passed.

Dr. Thomas H. Hamlin was a native of Huntingdon County, Pa. When a boy he accompanied his parents to Illinois, and his youthful years were passed at Odell. In young manhood he studied medicine. Later he turned his attention to veterinary surgery, which he followed in Livingston County, and also owned a farm there. In 1895 he came to Frankfort Station, and has since made his home with his son. He has been an expert in his chosen occupation, being recognized as a skilled practitioner and thoroughly familiar with diseases of animals and their methods of treatment. His wife was born on Lake Superior while her parents were going from New York to Chicago. She died in 1892, leaving an only son and child.

The early education of our subject was obtained in Odell and Dixon, Ill. He began the study of medicine in 1889, Dr. John Johnson being his preceptor. Later he entered the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, from which he graduated in 1893. He spent two years as resident physician in the Chicago Homeopathic Hospital, having been appointed to the position prior to his graduation, so that he had only six months to serve after graduating. While a student he was chosen for this position through a competitive examination out of a class of fifty-two. During his college course he did much work among the county poor, whom he furnished with medical services gratuitously. October 1, 1893, he came to Frankfort Station and established an office. His success was so great that in 1893, in order to secure adequate accommodations, he built an office and dispensary. His practice has steadily grown, and now requires all of his attention. He has also given some time to the study of dentistry, attending the dental department of the Northwestern University. This study he took up, not with the intention of following the dental profession, but in order that he might acquire a broader knowledge of general medical work. Fraternally

he is connected with Mount Joliet Lodge No. 42, A. F. & A. M.; Modern Woodmen of America; and Odell Lodge No. 464, I. O. O. F., at Odell.

In 1889 Dr. Hamlin married Miss Emma Emerson, of Chadwick, Ill. She was a daughter of Dr. John Johnston, but was adopted and reared by her grandparents, Emerson, whose name she took. Her grandfather, Dr. R. G. Emerson, was for years a prominent physician at Chadwick, Ill. She was educated in the Dixon Normal School and taught school for several years prior to her marriage, her work being principally in the schools of Black Oak, Ill. She still retains a deep interest in educational work, as well as in all movements looking toward the progress of the people, mentally and morally, and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

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JOHN FRANCIS was born in New Lenox Township, Will County, Ill., January 8, 1843. His father, the well-known Abraham Francis, was a native of County Cavan, Ireland, and his mother, Mary A. J. (Davison) Francis, was a native of Adams County, Ohio. The subject of this notice was the fifth child of his parents under whose careful training he developed into manhood, becoming familiar with the various employments of farm life, and pursuing his early studies in the common schools. When approaching manhood he took a course of study in Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College, Chicago, then returning to the farm, remained there until his twenty-third year.

December 21, 1865, he married Miss Harriet Maria Bliss, daughter of Abel and Lucinda (Blake) Bliss, both of whom were natives of Massachusetts. Mrs. Francis was born September 5, 1846, in New Lenox Township, and is the second daughter and third child of a family of two sons and five daughters. Besides the advantages of the common school Mrs. Francis received careful parental training, and remained a member of her father's household until her mar-



riage. She is now the mother of four children, all of whom are living: John E., born August 3, 1868; Howard B., July 3, 1871; Harriet J., September 6, 1877; and Wilbur A., January 7, 1880. Each one of them has graduated from the Joliet high school in the following classes, respectively, '87, '90, '97, '99. All but the eldest son remain at home. He married Miss Adeline L. Walz, daughter of John J. and Henrietta (Streicher) Walz, January 31, 1895. To them were born two children, Helen Adeline and a son who died in infancy.

Mr. Francis is a Republican and has held many positions of honor and trust at the hands of his friends and fellow-citizens. He was collector two years, school trustee nine years, school treasurer twelve years, and supervisor twenty-three years. The fact that he filled that office twenty-one years in succession (being chairman two terms) indicates forcibly the high place he holds in the regard of his fellow-citizens. At the time of the erection of the Will County court house, the soldier's and sailor's monument, and the administration building or sheriff's residence, he was a member of the building committees, and to such men as he is due the credit for the erection of public buildings so substantial and so well adapted to their needs. In 1894 he was elected sheriff of Will County, which position he held for four years.

Aside from these duties Mr. Francis has followed farming all his life. The farms which he owns have been placed under the best improvements. Substantial buildings, well cultivated land, modern machinery, bear witness to his successful management. He has been especially successful in the breeding and care of live stock. For fourteen years he exhibited Berkshire hogs at the state fairs with unusual success. Later his attention has been turned toward cattle, and he now owns one of the finest herds in Will County. His landed possessions aggregate nine hundred acres, divided into four tracts, the one upon which he lives being acknowledged the best farm in New Lenox Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis are both active members of the New Lenox Methodist Episcopal Church.

He has been a trustee and steward for many years. When the new church was erected in 1899, he was chosen a member of the building committee, and probably no man deserves more credit than he for such a complete, magnificent, and well-appointed edifice.

Personally Mr. Francis is looked upon as one of the leading men of the county. He is a man of progressive ideas, liberal and public spirited, and his career is indicative of the esteem and confidence with which he is regarded by his fellow-citizens. His amiable wife has been an efficient helpmate, and has contributed her full quota toward sustaining the reputation of the family.

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**C**OL. DANIEL H. DARLING has been a resident of this county since 1855, and at the outbreak of the Civil war was engaged in teaching in the Joliet schools. The family of which he is a member has been represented in America since colonial days, and has borne its part in the various wars in which our country has engaged. His grandfather was a soldier in the Revolution, and his father served in the second war with England, while he himself has a creditable record as an officer in the Civil war, in which he rose from the ranks to the command of a regiment.

Professor Darling (for he is better known by this title than by that of colonel) was born in Painesville, Ohio, June 8, 1836, and was fourth in a family of six children. His father, Seth, was a native of Madison County, N. Y., and there learned the trades of carpenter, joiner and wheelwright. He became a pioneer of the western reserve of Ohio, where he entered and improved a tract of land, and at the same time followed his trade. There he remained until his death, in 1841. His wife, Marline, was a daughter of Noah Anderson, who was born in Maryland, of Scotch parentage, and settled in Ohio at the same time with Mr. Paine, after whom the city of Painesville was named.

After having completed the studies of the local schools, the subject of this sketch became a student in Lake Erie College, where he completed his education. In 1855 he came to Illinois and accepted a position as principal in the Lockport school, where he remained for three years. He then came to Joliet, as principal of the public schools of this city, in which capacity he was serving at the beginning of the Civil war. Fired with the enthusiastic spirit and the patriotism of his forefathers, he determined at once to offer his services to the Union. He went to Chicago for that purpose, but, as he weighed only one hundred and twenty pounds, the recruiting officers would not accept him. However, he would not give up his purpose, but proceeded to Michigan, where he was accepted, becoming a member of Company C, Seventh Michigan Cavalry. He was in all the campaigns and engagements of the army of the Potomac. In the battle of Gettysburg he was wounded, but the need of soldiers being great and the battle a close one, he had the wound bound up, and continued in the fighting line, taking part in the fifteen battles that followed during the next fourteen days. When the fighting ceased he permitted the physicians to dress his wounds in a hospital. After the grand review in Washington he was honorably discharged, but immediately re-enlisted for service against the Indians, in which he made so creditable a record that he was promoted to the command of his regiment, serving under Generals Custer, Kilpatrick and Sheridan. He now has in his possession, as an interesting relic, an Indian blanket worn by one of the savages, a memento of his first engagement with the Indians.

The fatigue of long marches and exposure to inclement weather told severely upon Prof. Darling's health, and on the expiration of his army service he was unable to immediately resume teaching in Will County. As the Ohio Reform school was located in a very healthy place he went there, accepted a position in the school, and continued in it for four years, when, his health being again restored, he returned to Lockport and resumed work as principal of the schools. When the need of a superintendent of schools

was felt in Joliet he was offered the position, which he accepted, holding it for fourteen years. In 1868 he married Miss Abbie Wyman, of Painesville, Ohio. Owing to her ill-health, in 1896 he resigned his position, in order that he might be free to take her to a warmer climate during the winter months of each year. He has long been recognized as one of the most efficient educators of northeastern Illinois. Certainly there are very few who have accomplished more for the educational interests of Joliet than has he, and he richly deserves his high standing as a teacher. In politics he has never been active, but is intelligently conversant with public affairs and votes the Republican ticket. During the war he was made a Mason, and took his first degree in General Washington's old lodge at Winchester, Va. He is connected with Bartleson Post, G. A. R. In religion he is identified with the Christian Church.

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**H**OWARD T. Keltie, secretary and treasurer of the Keltie Stone Company, was born in Clinton, Canada, June 27, 1851, and was one of a family of three sons and four daughters, all of whom are living except two sons. His father, Thomas Keltie, a native of Scotland and a carpenter by trade, settled in Kingston, Canada, at an early age, and afterward removed to Clinton, where he died in the prime of life. He married Mary A. McCullough, who was born of English parentage in Canada and died in Detroit, but was buried at Joliet. In religious faith she was identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church.

When three years of age our subject was taken to Port Clark on Lake Huron, but four years later he returned to Clinton, where he attended the common schools. When sixteen he entered a stove factory, and afterward for three years was an engineer in the drilling of salt wells in Ontario, in the vicinity of his old home. Coming to the States, he was engaged to put down an artesian well at Lemont, beginning the work in July, 1873, and digging a well thirteen hundred and



sixty feet deep, which was the first deep well in the locality. Coming to Joliet, he worked for several months in deepening wells, then returned to Canada, where he spent the winter. In the spring of 1874 he came to Mendota, Ill., where he dug an artesian well twenty-two hundred feet deep. Next he put down a well at Champaign, Ill. Returning to Mendota, he worked at the deepening of the well he had previously dug. His next contact was near Marseilles, Ill., where he put down a well that was twenty-one hundred feet deep. Afterward he dug several wells in the same vicinity.

While at Marseilles, Mr. Keltie made the acquaintance of Mr. Hays, of the Joliet Stone Company, who engaged him to buy an engine and machinery for sawing stone, and put it in operation in Joliet. With this concern (the Joliet Stone Company) Mr. Keltie continued as an engineer for four years, after which he superintended their quarries for four years. In 1884 he bought an interest in the Joliet and Chicago Stone Company, of which he was superintendent of the quarries at Fourth and Rowell avenues. After two years he was made vice-president and secretary as well as superintendent, and continued in these capacities until 1893, when he resigned. Organizing the Douglas & Keltie Stone Company, he became its manager, and soon afterward bought his partner's interest and changed the name to the Keltie Stone Company, of which he is secretary, treasurer and manager. Under his supervision quarries were opened between Jackson and Cass streets, on the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad, where the company bought a large tract of land. He also opened and began to operate twenty acres west of Joliet, on the same railroad. The quarries are provided with steam plant, derricks, siding, and other necessary equipments, and the product is a good quality of building stone. He is also a contracting stone mason and does all the work in this line for the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad. He has also had contracts for the material used in the government piers at South Chicago. Shipments of stone are made to all parts of the country, but especially to Milwaukee and St. Louis. In addition to his connection with

this business, Mr. Keltie is interested in the Will County Bank and was also one of the incorporators of the Vance Furniture Company, of which he was secretary until the business was sold out.

In Joliet Mr. Keltie married Miss May T. Smith, who was born in Joliet, daughter of William Smith, of Joliet. They have three children, William H., Arthur J. and Laura M. The family are connected with the First Baptist Church, in which he is church treasurer and president of the board of trustees. At the same time he acts as superintendent of a mission Sunday-school. In national politics he is a staunch Republican, and at this writing is a member of the county central committee. He is also treasurer of the Working Men's Republican Club. A member of the board of school trustees for Joliet Township, he is serving his second term as president of the same. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias, and in the latter has served as chancellor commander.

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**C**HARLES F. BLOOD, of Joliet, was elected justice of the peace in 1891 and re-elected in 1893 and 1897, having had his office in the Barber building since 1895. At different times he has held other local offices. For three years he has served as deputy assessor. In 1888 Mayor Paige appointed him chief of police, and he filled the office for two years, meantime accomplishing much toward ridding the city of toughs and desperadoes. The position was one of the greatest responsibility and required much night work, but he filled it in a manner highly creditable to himself. When he first came to Joliet, in 1872, he was employed as superintendent of the J. D. Paige bottling works, where he remained until 1878. He then became engineer of steamer No. 2 of the fire department, continuing in the position for ten years, when he resigned to accept the position of chief of police.

The Blood family originated in Scotland, but



was early established in Vermont. Jonathan Blood, a native of Rutland County, that state, and a soldier in the war of 1812, spent his last days in Erie County, N. Y. His son Horace, who was born in Rutland, moved to Erie County, N. Y., in an early day, and followed the harness maker's trade there. He held numerous local offices, among them those of commissioner and school treasurer. In 1869 he came west and settled in Remington, Ind., afterward engaging in farm pursuits near that place. He died in Remington, Ind., when eighty-six years of age. During the patriot war he served as a sergeant. He married Nancy Fairbank, who was born in Rutland, Vt., of English descent, and died in Indiana at eighty-three years of age. Her father, Willard Fairbank, a farmer in Vermont, spent his last days in Aurora, Erie County, N. Y. In religion Horace Blood was a Universalist and his wife affiliated with the Baptists. They were the parents of four sons and seven daughters, of whom four of the daughters are deceased. Dorr J., who was a soldier in the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh New York Infantry, resides in Remington, Ind.; Horace W. is a retired business man of Joliet; and Anson carries on a coal business in Omaha, Neb.

The third of the sons, Charles F., was born in Aurora, N. Y., February 14, 1844. In youth he attended the public school and academy in his home town. With six other students of the academy he left school at noon one day in September and traveled by stage fourteen miles to Buffalo for the purpose of placing his name on the recruiting list. He was mustered into Company B, Tenth New York Cavalry, which was sent to Gettysburg, Pa., for the winter. By a strange coincidence, this was the first regiment

to enter Gettysburg after Lee's evacuation in 1863. In 1862 he was sent to join the army of the Potomac, and took part in a number of cavalry dashes and skirmishes in old Virginia. Returning north for the battle of Gettysburg, after that engagement his regiment pursued Lee into Virginia, fighting in front of Petersburg and at other points. He was present at the mine explosion. At Trevilian Station he was struck in the left foot by a ball, but his heavy cavalry boot protected the foot to such an extent that, although he was unable to accompany his regiment for a time, amputation was avoided. At the close of the three years of service he was taken ill with malaria, and was sent to the hospital. On account of physical disability he was honorably discharged in front of Petersburg, in October, in 1864.

Returning to his studies in the academy, Mr. Blood found in a short time that his experience in the army had rendered the confinement of the schoolroom distasteful to him. Thereupon he left and started for the west, intending to go to California. However, reaching Plainfield, Ill., in 1865, he found his brother Horace ill, and so remained. In 1867 he went to Indiana, but four years later returned to this county, and for a year remained in Wilmington, since which time he has made Joliet his home. June 29, 1871, he married Caroline, daughter of William Foncannon, a soldier in the One Hundred and Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry during the Civil war. Six children were born of their union, three of whom are now living, Ernest, Christine and Horace. Politically Mr. Blood was a Democrat prior to the war, but since then has been a staunch Republican. Fraternally he is connected with Mount Joliet Lodge No. 42, A. F. & A. M., and Bartleson Post No. 6, G. A. R.





John Hayden



## JOHN HAYDEN.

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JOHN HAYDEN was born in Lincoln County, Me., August 19, 1848, and was three years of age when his father, John Hayden, came to this county, so that from his earliest recollections he has been familiar with this region, its people, its development and its agricultural interests. He remained on the home farm until his marriage. This event occurred in 1877 and united him with Bridget, daughter of Martin and Esther (Welch) Bergan, and a native of Manhattan, this county. Her parents were born in Kilkenny, Ireland, and were among the earliest settlers in Manhattan Township. Mr. and Mrs. Hayden became the parents of six children, namely: John, Daniel, William and Martin, who are college students; and Anna and Edmund, who are attending the common schools.

After his marriage John Hayden settled on a quarter section of land which had been deeded to him by his father. He now cultivates six hundred and forty acres. In the summer of 1893 he built the best farm house in Will County, equipped with modern conveniences, which stamp the owners as people of good taste and ample means. An important factor in his success has been his cattle business. He has devoted considerable attention to the feeding of stock and has been successful in the work. In religion he is of the Roman Catholic faith. He votes for the candidates and principles of the Democratic party. For eighteen years he held office as township commissioner, for eight years was treasurer of the town board and for twenty-two years has been a member of the school board. In 1896 he was made super-

visor of the town. So satisfactory was his service that he was returned to the office at the expiration of his first term in 1898; this, too, in spite of the fact that the town for years had given a Republican majority. Frequently he has been selected to serve as a delegate to the conventions of his party. His selection for official positions indicates his great personal popularity as well as the efficient manner in which he discharges his public duties. His life has been a busy and useful one, and his honorable career has gained for him the confidence of the people of Florence Township and Will County.

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JOHN CONRAD. Perhaps no citizen of Peotone has been more actively identified with varied of its interests than has Mr. Conrad, who is now living retired in the village. A native of Germany, he was born in Odenbach, Rheinpfalz, Canton Lauterecken, April 15, 1830, a son of Peter and Dorothea (Reisz) Conrad. He was one of nine sons and daughters, and the third of six now living. His brothers, Peter and Henry, are both retired from business, the former living in Peotone, and the latter in Monee. Dorothea is the wife of John Schmidt, of Round Grove, Ill.; Catherine is the wife of S. Horning, of Peotone; and Elizabeth, the widow of Frederick Schroeder, lives in Peotone. The father of this family was born in Odenbach, January 1,

1796. His father, who was born in France, died in Germany when the son was fifteen years of age. In youth he learned the shoemaker's trade, which he afterward followed in addition to farming. He was a thoroughly upright man, the soul of honor and integrity. He died January 20, 1848, aged fifty-two years. His wife was born at Odenbach, May 26, 1803, and came to America in 1855, after which she made her home with her children, dying April 28, 1890, when eighty-seven years of age.

Under the instruction of his father our subject learned the boot and shoe trade. In 1849, during the rebellion of the people (Hecker as leader) against the laws of the king of Bavaria, on account of Mr. Conrad wearing a Hecker's hat he was taken off the street in the city of Neustadt, A. D. H., by the soldiers, and terribly mangled and misused. In the conflict he received, with a sword from the general of a regiment, a long deep cut on his right arm, directly above the elbow, cutting clear to the bone. This blow was directed for the head. It was only prevented by a citizen in office of that city, who saw what was going on, ran in at great risk of his own life, taking hold of the general's arm just as he was striking the blow, thereby breaking the force, which landed on Mr. Conrad's arm, and from which he nearly bled to death. The next morning, still held as their prisoner, and being shamelessly and unmercifully handled all night by the highest officers of said regiment, Mr. Conrad received his death sentence by said officers to be shot at eleven o'clock, a. m., on that day. While on the way to the place of execution, more dead than alive from loss of blood, followed by thousands of soldiers and people, being only about three blocks away from the city square, where the shooting should occur, the king sent a message by wire "to release the young man, and to let him free." The gash can still be seen on Mr. Conrad's arm, showing a very plain wide scar across his arm, and even the stitches of the needle are plainly to be seen to-day, after the expiration of fifty-one years. Mr. Conrad was nineteen years old at that time.

In the same year, 1849, Mr. Conrad was closely

watched by two men who were opposed to his religious ideas, he being a Protestant and standing firm by his faith. One evening after retiring he was followed up by these two anti-Protestants, who were partly under the influence of liquor, and at the same time being Mr. Conrad's shop-mates, came into his bed-room, each one armed with a butcher knife. There was no light in the room, but the moon shone bright. Mr. Conrad heard them approaching, and their remarks, saying: "He is in, he is in; see, there are his boots," whereupon Mr. Conrad silently slipped out at the rear of his bed, and gradually made his way to the door unnoticed by them, while they were in the act of striking their butcher knives down through the bed-quilts. Examination afterward was made of the bed, and fourteen holes were found in the bedding, they thinking their victim was in the bed. This, too, happened in Neustadt, A. D. H. Mr. Conrad also had the experience of five more similar cases, but they are too much to describe. Railroad wrecks; fell twenty feet to a stone floor; was twice in burning houses in the city of New York, when he was a fireman, but was rescued nearly burned; was between two canal-boats in the water, when the only way to save himself was to sink to the ground, and this he did, both boats passing over him, one to the east, the other to the west; one day his horses ran away with him, one of his feet became tangled in the lines, and he was dragged on the ground just a quarter of a mile.

Two weeks before the time of his drafting into the army he left for America, May 23, 1850, and on the 30th of the same month he took passage on the sailing vessel "William Sturges," which anchored in Philadelphia July 19, 1850. The following day he went to New York City, where he worked at his trade for four years at a salary of \$4 per month for the first six months. During all but six months of this time he was a member of the New York volunteer fire department, No. 18 engine. In September, 1854, he came west and settled at Elmhurst, Dupage County, Ill., where he opened a shoe shop. On the day of Lincoln's assassination in 1865 he discontinued the business. Later he established a general



mercantile business, which he conducted until January 20, 1869. He then came to Peotone and opened the New York house, which he conducted for eighteen months, then selling out and opening a general store. Two years later he retired from the business on being elected police magistrate. For eight years he devoted his entire attention to the duties of his office. During this time, in 1872, after having been a moderate beer drinker for years, he determined to reform and cease drinking, and from that time to this he has kept that resolve,—a fact that shows he is a man of decision of purpose. In 1875, with his son-in law, August Schugman, as a partner, he embarked in the general hardware and stove business, an enterprise that proved successful. Mr. Schugman's interest was bought in 1890 by our subject's son, John P., and the firm of J. Conrad & Son continued for two years, when two other sons, Frank H. and Fred P., became members of the firm, and Mr. Conrad retired to private life. This firm is in existence to-day under the name of John Conrad's Sons.

July 29, 1855, Mr. Conrad married Miss Caroline Schaubel, who was born in Grombach, Baden, Germany, January 23, 1837, and was brought to America by her parents in 1850. They settled in Pine Grove, Pa., and in 1854 moved to Elmhurst, Ill., where C. Schaubel carried on a shoe business, although in Germany he was a forester and gardener by occupation. On Mr. Conrad's arrival in Elmhurst in the same year, he worked several months for Mr. Schaubel. In 1855 Mr. Schaubel retired from business and moved to Oak Park, Ill., where he bought property and has since made his home. Mr. Schaubel built the first church in Oak Park. It was of the Baptist denomination. He was the originator of the first Sunday-school in Oak Park, and was the local preacher at that charge at certain occasions. He died in 1894, at the age of eighty-five years.

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad became the parents of twelve children, nine of whom are now living. Charlotte is the wife of Rev. William Gross, a minister of the Evangelical Church now located at Mount Carroll, Ill. John P., Frank H. and Fred

P. constitute the firm of John Conrad's Sons. Harry F. is a member of the dry-goods firm of Conrad & Carson, of Peotone. Hattie is the wife of Frank A. Schlauder, a blacksmith and carriage-maker of Peotone. Jennie married Harry C. Reser, a police officer in Peotone. Charles J. and William R. are employed in the hardware store owned by their brothers.

To show the influence Mr. Conrad has wielded among his fellow-citizens, it is but necessary to state some of the positions he has held. For twenty-eight years he has been a notary public and still holds his commission, and for eight years he has served as a police magistrate in Peotone. During his residence in Dupage County he was constable for fourteen years and tax collector two years. For nine years he was village trustee of Peotone, and for eighteen years served as school director. During the Civil war he was for two years secretary of the Union League at Elmhurst. In this county and Dupage, altogether, he was for seventeen years an auctioneer. For four years he was president of the Sons of Herman Lodge at Elmhurst, and one year its representative to the grand lodge at Chicago. During his eleven years of service as trustee of the village cemetery he has taken great interest in improving and beautifying this spot. In 1888, while in Will County, he gave thirty-three days of service as a juror in the United States district court. During the last twenty-eight years he executed vouchers for soldiers without any charges whatever. He also served in Elmhurst, Dupage County, as school director for six years, and in Peotone for twelve years.

At the time that Dr. A. Melville and Owen Mink had their fatal altercation in the village of Peotone, Mr. Conrad was the man who stepped in between the two men, right when the fight was the hottest, and prevented Mr. Mink from further harming Dr. Melville. Mink was about to kick out the brains of Dr. Melville, and while he was in the act, Mr. Conrad stepped in between the two men, taking hold of Mink's shoulders with both hands, and forcibly pulling him away from the doctor, who then lay on the ground half unconscious. While Mr. Conrad was struggling



with Mink, Dr. Melville, standing off about twenty feet, fired a shot from a 38-caliber, directly under Mr. Conrad's left arm. Mr. Conrad and Mr. Mink being clinched, the shot killed Owen Mink almost instantly, and he died in Mr. Conrad's arms. The ball landed in Mr. Mink's heart, and passed directly under Mr. Conrad's left side close to his body. This was as narrow an escape from death as many of his other experiences previously mentioned. In 1883 he was rescued out of the fire very badly burned, when his store burned down, and his loss on building and goods was over \$6,000.

A sketch of Mr. Conrad's life would be incomplete without some reference to his religious activity. Since he became a Christian his life has been one of great usefulness, unstained by any shadow. For twenty-two years he has been a trustee in the Evangelical Church, during all of which time he has been secretary and treasurer of the board. For twenty-eight years he has been leader of the choir in the church. Every religious or philanthropic movement receives his support, to the extent of his ability to give. Very justly he holds a high place in the regard of his fellow-citizens as a man of integrity, honor and ability.

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**P**ER AUGUST ERICKSON, who is one of the most influential Swedes in Joliet, holds a position as keeper at the Illinois state penitentiary. He was born at Ekebybona socken, Ostergötland, Sweden, in February, 1858, the oldest child of L. P. and Anna Katarina Erickson. His father, who was a farmer's son, followed agricultural pursuits and operated a distillery. He took the family to Elgmyra, Christbergs socken, when our subject was two and one-half years of age, but later settled in Stjärnorp, and finally retired to Norrköping, and in 1891 died in Motala. His first wife died in 1873, leaving four sons and two daughters, of whom the daughters reside in Evanston, Ill., one son, Carl E., is engaged in the hardware business at Iron-

wood, Mich., and two sons remain in Sweden, Gustav V. being a sergeant in the national army, while Hjalmar lives in Norrköping. Of the father's second marriage, three children were born, all now living in Sweden.

When a boy our subject had excellent advantages and studied English and other branches under a governess. At seventeen years of age he was apprenticed to the trade of a tanner and currier in Motala, but after a year went to Linköping and secured work there at his trade. In 1877 he became a sailor and sailed via England to Portugal, then returned to Sweden and worked at his trade. May 27, 1879, he landed in New York, from there started at once for Chicago. Through an employment office in the latter city he hired to work in the quarries at Lockport, but after eight days he secured work in the tannery of Houck & Brown, where he continued for years, resigning in 1897 in order to accept the position of keeper at the penitentiary.

December 13, 1890, in Joliet, Mr. Erickson married Miss Ida Charlotta Melin, who was born in Swanaholm, Sweden, and came to this city in the spring of 1890. They have four children, Carl Oscar August, Gustaf Birger August, Thorsten Fingal August and Hilding Walfred August. The family occupy the residence at No. 106 Virginia street, which Mr. Erickson built in 1892. Mrs. Erickson was one of seven children (three here), whose father, Johannes Oscar Melin, was a lifelong resident of Sweden. She is connected with the Royal Neighbors and the North Star Association. Socially, her genial manners and kind heart have won her many friends among her acquaintances in this city.

The Republican party has a firm advocate in Mr. Erickson. He is a charter member of the Swedish Republican Club, in which he has officiated as vice-president. He is also actively connected with the Swedish-American Republican League of Illinois. The Modern Woodmen of America and Fraternal Alliance of Milwaukee have his name enrolled among their members, and at one time he was connected with the Knights of Pythias. He is a charter member and recorder of the North Star Benefit Association in

Joliet. In the organization of the Swedish Lutheran Church he took an active part, and at the time of the building of a house of worship he assisted, as a member of the building committee. In the offices of trustee and treasurer he has proved a helpful member of the church, and has promoted its welfare constantly since he first became identified with it.

**H**ON. EDWARD C. AKIN, attorney-general, was born in Will County, July 19, 1852, and was educated in the public schools of Joliet, and at Ann Arbor, Mich. For four years he was paying and receiving teller in the First National Bank of Joliet, where he acquired an extensive acquaintance throughout Will County. He was admitted to the bar of Illinois in the fall of 1878, and has continued in active practice ever since. He began his political career in 1887, when he was nominated as the Republican candidate for city attorney of Joliet, and although the city was at the time Democratic from five to six hundred, he defeated the Democratic nominee by a majority of over seven hundred. In 1888 he was nominated for state's attorney of Will County, and at the ensuing election led the entire state and county ticket by eight hundred votes. In 1892 he was renominated for that office and again led his ticket by hundreds of votes, and is credited by the leaders of both political parties with having saved the county ticket from defeat. His most brilliant political victory was achieved in the spring of 1895, when he ran as the Republican candidate for mayor of the city of Joliet. Although opposed by a citizen's ticket, led by a Republican, he defeated the Democratic nominee by a majority of over two hundred, receiving nearly as many votes as both his opponents combined. As a lawyer he stands among the leaders of the Will County bar. As a public prosecutor he has no superior in the state, and his conduct of municipal affairs has won for him the admiration of all good citizens, regardless of party affiliations.

He is a man of high character and sterling integrity, and although he has been prominently before the people of this county for the past ten years, no breath of suspicion has ever been cast upon his private life or official acts. He is a man of fine appearance and pleasing address, and has won an enviable reputation throughout the state as a public speaker.—*Chicago Inter Ocean*, 1896.

A public official, and especially one who holds a responsible and important position, no matter whether he is or is not a candidate for re-election, as a servant of the people, should be able to give a good account of his stewardship. Those whom he serves have the right to know in what manner he has performed the duties of his office, although they may not always insist upon knowing. To show conclusively that an officer has administered his trust ably, impartially, conscientiously, fearlessly and economically is the best argument in favor of his renomination for a second term that can be presented, and is also a sufficient reason for his re-election.

That no opinion rendered by Mr. Akin has been overruled is as gratifying to his friends as it is flattering to himself as a lawyer, and is evidence that his legal ability and judicial acumen are of the highest order. It is all the more creditable to Mr. Akin from the fact that a number of these opinions were in connection with the construction of the new laws, such as the revenue law of 1898, the amended statute in relation to loan and building associations, and others of equal importance. The large increase in the work of the department is ascertained by comparing the figures of the past three years with those for the full term of Mr. Akin's predecessor, which was considered at the time, and justly so, a record-breaker. Mr. Akin has lost no cases except in the supreme court, and of the twenty-eight there decided against him, as will be noted, twenty-seven were criminal cases, which were lost because of errors in the trial courts. It may be fairly claimed, therefore, that he has, in reality, lost but one case.

Particular attention is called to his efforts to secure the enforcement of the anti-trust law. This was not done for the purpose of bleeding



the corporations, nor on account of any unreasonable prejudice against, or hostility to, the corporations, but because the law requires him to proceed in the manner he did. In the decision of the inheritance tax cases by the United States supreme court in favor of the constitutionality of the law, Mr. Akin won a great legal victory, and the state has been benefited to the amount of nearly \$1,000,000 of taxes from this source. All these combine to make up a record of which Mr. Akin may well be proud. His friends are proud of it, and they believe that upon this record alone he should be renominated and re-elected. In placing him on the ticket for a second term, the Republican convention will do a creditable act and one that will be indorsed by the people at the polls in November next.—*Joliet Republican*, February 2, 1900.

**W. COPPAGE.** It is said that every man has his specialty,—some one subject with which he is more familiar than with any other. Some men's specialties are difficult to discover, not so with Mr. Coppage, for even those but slightly acquainted with him are aware that his "hobby" is the manufacture of ink. The term, "ink fiend," meaning an ink salesman, was first used by him, and if this expression may also be taken to mean one whose mind is wrapped up in the subject, and who is familiar with its every phase, it might appropriately be used concerning himself. In the spring of 1893, coming to Joliet, he organized the Challenge Printing Company, which manufactures all kinds of printers' inks, paints and oils. He is the inventor of a new process ink with a luster, for which he has received the highest testimonials from publishers and printers. Through his efforts the manufacturers of inks were forced to make an ink with a superior luster for a small price. His inventions are proving profitable to himself, and his suggestions have made fortunes for other men.

The Coppage family were among the F. F. V.'s in colonial days, but date back to New England,

and were represented in the Revolutionary war. Lemuel Payton Coppage, a native of Virginia and a large slave-holder, being opposed to the institution of slavery, freed his negroes and then removed to Brown County, Ill., where he farmed until his death. One of his sons, Joseph, assisted in driving the Mormons out of Nauvoo, Ill., and later served in the Mexican and Civil wars, retiring as a major; he now resides at Naples, Ill. John Wesley Coppage, another son of the Virginia planter, was born in Fauquier County, Va., and in 1847 settled in Chicago, where he engaged in fresco painting, and also was a canal contractor and boat-owner. He died in Chicago, February 14, 1871. His wife, Elizabeth Yarnow, was born in Brockville, Canada, of French descent, and settled in Chicago in April, 1837. Her father, John Yarnow, a native of France, was one of the first shipbuilders in Chicago, and superintended the building of the first steam vessel launched in that city. At one time he owned property in the heart of Chicago, but sold it before its value became known. He and "Long John" Wentworth were cronies, and were called the "two big Johns." His last days were spent in Minnesota, where he died. His daughter, Mrs. Coppage, is now living in Oakland, Cal. Of her family only a son and daughter are living.

The subject of this sketch was born in Chicago, September 18, 1856. His education was begun in the old Harrison street school. He was, of course, too young to participate in the war, but he vividly recalls the scenes of those days, when his father had charge of the colors on the gunboat "Carondelet," and when all was excitement and expectation. For a few years he served at the merchant tailor's trade. In November, 1871, he entered the employ of Millard & Decker, printers. He entered the employ of the National Printing and Engraving Company as errand boy, earning \$3 a week, but received various promotions, and was finally made foreman, with the highest wages paid any employe. After sixteen years with the company he resigned to take the western agency of J. K. Wright & Co., of Philadelphia, manufacturers of print-



ing ink. He made Chicago his headquarters and traveled throughout this entire section of country, holding the position until the fall of 1892. While he was with the National Printing and Engraving Company, they were the first to put in a plant for making their own ink, and he probably made the first pound of printing ink ever manufactured in the press room.

In 1899 Mayor Mount appointed Mr. Coppage city oil inspector. He was secretary of the first Young Men's Republican Club organized in Chicago. Until 1892 he continued a Republican, but he then became a silver adherent, and in 1896 was elected secretary of the Silver Republican Club. He was made a Mason in the William P. Warren Lodge, A. F. & A. M. His marriage in Chicago, united him with Miss Margaret O'Brien, who was born at Cold Springs, N. Y., and by whom he has two daughters, Grace and Gertrude. Mrs. Coppage is a daughter of M. J. and Margaret O'Brien, the former of whom, a contractor, settled in Joliet in 1879, but is now living retired in Chicago.

followed farming and the carpenter's trade. In 1834 he removed with his family to Illinois and settled in Will County. He built a cabin on what is now the Boylan homestead, on the Chicago street road. In 1837, one-half mile south of his cabin; he built what was at that time the largest farmhouse in the county, and in that home he died March 7, 1841.

At the time of coming to Illinois Ara Broadwell Brown was fourteen years of age. He received only a limited education. He was twenty-one when his father died and afterward he assisted in settling up the estate, then settled down to farm life, cultivating two hundred and sixty acres and an eighty-acre tract, which was his share of the estate. The homestead being his portion of the estate, he remained there up to the time of his death, which occurred September 8, 1865. He was successful in the stock business and in farming, and at the time of his death owned seven hundred acres of as fine land as the county contained. He was an ardent supporter of the Democratic party, but in no sense of the word an office-seeker, always refusing the numerous offices which were tendered him.

The mother of our subject was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, April 6, 1824, and descended from an Englishman, who, early in the seventeenth century, settled in Maryland, having been sent to America by the Church of England as a missionary to the Indians. Her father was a farmer and an active member of the Baptist Church.

After having received his education in common schools and the Jennings Seminary, of Aurora, Elias Brown took upon himself the active duties of life and began farming in his native county. February 27, 1878, he married Miss M. Alpharetta Mapps, who was born in Jackson Township, a daughter of Thomas A. and Mary A. (Hemphill) Mapps. Her father, a native of Shippensburg, Cumberland County, Pa., born December 27, 1828, removed with his parents to Ohio in boyhood and there learned the cooper's trade. When a young man he came to Illinois and settled in Will County, where he married and continued to reside until the time of his death.

**E**LIAS BROWN, supervisor of Jackson Township, and a prosperous farmer and cattle-feeder, was born in this township November 12, 1851, a son of Ara Broadwell and Martha (Hougham) Brown. He was one of thirteen children, six of whom survive, namely: Sarah B., wife of George W. Sharp, a farmer in Indiana; Elias; N. Jane, of Joliet; Mary B., who married D. F. Higgins, an attorney of Joliet; Frank, who resides on the old homestead in this county; and Martha M., of Joliet. The father was born near Syracuse, N. Y., February 19, 1820, a son of Peter and Mary (Teeple) Brown, and descended from Scotch forefathers. The Teeple family was founded in America during the Revolutionary war by two brothers from Holland, one of whom espoused the American cause, while the other fought with the British.

After reaching manhood Grandfather Brown moved from New Jersey to York state, where he

Since his marriage Mr. Brown has resided on his present farm. While he follows general farming, he has made a special feature of the cattle business and has met with success in this industry. In 1883 he was chosen by his party (the Democratic) as a candidate for supervisor and was elected. At that time the term of office was only one year. He was elected for five successive terms. In November, 1890, he was elected to succeed Henry Spangler, who resigned as supervisor to accept the office of county treasurer. Since then he has been returned to the office at the end of each term, and has served, with the exception of two years, for the past seventeen years. Fraternally he is a member of Jackson Camp No. 3318, M. W. A. He and his wife are the parents of four children, namely: Ara B., born May 9, 1881; Elias A., September 29, 1883; Jarvis J., April 17, 1888; and Paul, June 24, 1891.

**L**ONDUS BRANNON, M. D. Both in Manhattan, this county, where he formerly engaged in practice, and in Joliet, where for some years he has had his office in the Barber building, Dr. Brannon is well known as a skillful physician and surgeon, one who, by careful study in the best colleges, by clinical work in hospitals, and by practical experience in the building up of a large practice, is fitted to hold a high place in the ranks of his profession. Since he came to Joliet, in December, 1895, he has made a specialty of gynecology and major and minor surgery, and has had a large hospital practice beside his private professional work.

Dr. Brannon was born in Decatur County, Ind., November 25, 1857. His father, John, a native of New Jersey, was a young boy when the family removed to Franklin County, Ohio, and settled on a farm. When thirty years of age he removed to Indiana, settling at Forest Hill, where his subsequent years were spent. During the Mexican war he served as a member of an Ohio regiment. His death occurred May

2, 1893, when he was seventy-six years of age. He married Sarah Marker, who was born in Franklin County, Ohio, of Pennsylvanian parentage. She is still living at the old Indiana homestead. Of their five children, Laura resides with her mother; Mrs. Isophene Wright, of Greensburg, Ind., is a professional nurse and a graduate of the Illinois Training School for Nurses; Weller cultivates the home farm; George H. is a practicing physician in Manhattan, this county; and Londus, the second son, forms the subject of this sketch. He was educated in the public schools and Hartsville College, and at the age of seventeen began to teach school, it being his aim to earn enough to secure a medical education. When he was nineteen he began the study of medicine with Dr. J. L. Wooden. In 1878 he entered the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, from which he graduated in 1882, with the degree of M. D. In February, 1883, he came to Will County, opening an office at Manhattan, where he remained until the spring of 1894. Before settling in Joliet he took a course of eighteen months' study and experimental work in the Presbyterian, Cook County, Chicago Polyclinic and other large hospitals of Chicago, and availed himself of the splendid opportunities that city offered for clinical training, whereby he could gain a larger experience than could be gained during a lifetime in a general practice. The last twelve months he spent as house physician and surgeon in the Post-Graduate hospital on the west side, from which he received a diploma in November, 1895.

For several years Dr. Brannon was instructing surgeon at the Silver Cross hospital in Joliet. In 1893 he was appointed pension examiner and was chosen secretary of the board, serving for three years. A change of administration in 1896 caused his resignation. He is connected with the Chicago and Will County Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. In politics he is a Democrat. He was made a Mason before leaving Decatur County, and is now identified with Mount Joliet Lodge No. 42, A. F. & A. M. At one time he was connected with the Odd Fellows. He was married in Peotone, Ill.,



to Miss Lizzie A. Jones, who was born in Wilton Township, this county, and is a daughter of Robert Jones, a native of Yorkshire, England. Dr. and Mrs. Brannon, and their niece, Miss Edna Brannon, have a pleasant home at No. 313 Richards avenue.

**COL. JOHN CURREY.** Notwithstanding the years that have passed since the death of Colonel Currey, his memory has not grown dim in the hearts of those who held him dear. As a pioneer of Joliet he is entitled to mention in the annals of the city, to the early building of which he was a large and prominent contributor. At the time he came to this place, in 1836, it was known as Juliet and was an insignificant hamlet, surrounded by great stretches of undeveloped prairie land. During the subsequent years of his busy life he contributed to its upbuilding and fostered its interests.

The Currey family was established in America many generations ago, and was of French extraction. Colonel Currey was born in Portland, Me., November 22, 1801, and was quite young when his father, Parish Currey, removed to Massachusetts. For some years he engaged in the mercantile business at Bridgewater, Oneida County, N. Y., coming from there to Illinois in 1836. He became interested in the erection of a large stone building in Joliet, which is now the National hotel. Before the completion of the building his partner, J. J. Garland, sold his interest to Martin H. Demmond, and the work was finished by the firm of Currey & Demmond. The building was the largest that had been erected in Joliet up to that time and the house has since been connected with the history of the place.

For several years Colonel Currey conducted a large and prosperous mercantile business in partnership with Mr. Demmond. On the dissolution of the partnership he took a contract for the construction of a portion of the Illinois and Michigan canal, and after completing that work he entered into partnership with ex-Gov. J. A. Matteson

in the ownership and management of a large supply store, located on the canal. As long as the packets ran on the canal he continued the business, carrying in stock a full assortment of such goods as the location demanded. After buying his partner's interest he continued the business alone for ten years, until his retirement. He had invested in property near Joliet and planned to establish his home upon it, but preference for city life led him to change his plans and settle in the city. Here he resided until his death, March 11, 1872.

The Episcopal Church, of which Colonel Currey was a member, received the encouragement of his support and sympathy. In politics he was a Jacksonian Democrat. He was twice married; first, in 1823, to Miss Luey Demmond, of Waterville, N. Y., who died some years later. The two children born to their union died when young. In Joliet, March 27, 1866, he married Susan, daughter of James Sterling, who was a native of Sterling, Scotland, but emigrated to America and engaged in agricultural pursuits at Cornwall, Ontario, Canada. By his marriage to Anna Cunningham five children were born, three now living. Mrs. Currey was the eldest and was born in Cornwall. She accompanied her parents to Illinois at the time of the building of the canal, in which her father was interested as a contractor, with George A. Barnett. During the excitement following the discovery of gold in California Mr. Sterling crossed the plains to the coast, where he spent several years, meeting with fair success.

**AUGUSTUS EIB.** As a resident of this county since 1833, Mr. Eib well deserves mention. He was a boy of thirteen when the family settled in the neighborhood of his present home, and he has since been a witness of the remarkable growth of this section. In Harrison County, W. Va., he was born June 19, 1820. He was one of nine children, of whom five sons survive. His father, Peter Eib, was born in Little York, Pa., March 12, 1779, and removed



to Harrison County, W. Va., but in an early day settled in Ohio, where he spent two years. In the spring of 1832 he removed to Illinois and selected a claim in Will County, then returned to Fountain County, Ind., where he had been living for six years. May 10, 1833, he arrived with his family on the place he had selected for their home. He died here August 4, 1858.

Remaining with his parents until 1845, our subject then bought eighty acres of canal land, a part of his present farm. He has been prosperous in his undertakings, and now owns one hundred and sixty-seven acres, forming one of the valuable farms of Jackson Township. His marriage, March 20, 1851, united him with Miss Jane Evans, who was born in Franklin County, Ohio, July 2, 1828, a daughter of Lovead and Mahala (Kyrk) Evans. Her father, a native of Vermont, settled in Franklin County, Ohio; thence, in 1837, removed to Fountain City, Ind., but one year later settled in Iroquois County, Ill., and continued there until two years prior to his death, when he went to Miami County, Kans. Eight children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Eib, four of whom are now living, namely: Adelbert, a farmer of Jasper County, Ind.; Peter and Alonzo, who operate farms in Will County; and Willard, who cultivates the home farm.

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JOSEPH A. KELLY, who for years has been the owner of extensive landed interests in Kansas, is now living in Joliet, retired from active business cares, having transferred to his sons the management of his western ranches. He was born in Trellick, County Tyrone, Ireland, and in childhood was brought to America by his parents, Edward and Rose (Curren) Kelly, settling with them in Jackson Township, this county. When a boy he studied in a log school-house, whose equipment and furnishings were as crude and primitive as its exterior appearance. His education was completed in Notre Dame University, where he remained a student for

six years, graduating in 1863. Afterward he continued with his father for two years and then embarked in the dry-goods business on North Bluff, near Exchange street, later removing to Exchange, near Canal. For some years we was in partnership with Dan Hendricks, but finally bought his interest and afterward carried on business with his brother, under the firm title of Kelly Brothers, their location being on Jefferson street. About 1878 he sold out to his brother and returned to the old homestead, where he engaged in general farming and the stock business.

In 1888 Mr. Kelly removed to Harper County, Kans., buying a ranch six miles from Corwin and placing four thousand acres under fence. The land is well watered by the Little Salty and the Little Sandy creeks and is admirably adapted for cattle-raising. At this writing he has almost one thousand head of cattle on the ranch, and these he markets in Kansas City. Six hundred acres of the land are planted to Kaffer cane, corn and millet, which is used for winter feed. The buildings on the place are neat and adapted to their several purposes. He also owns another ranch of four thousand acres one mile north of Corwin, lying on the Little Sandy, and this property is stocked with cattle. The K ranches, as these two places are called, are the largest in Harper County. Besides these, he owns three-quarters of a section across the line in Oklahoma. Since 1899 he has been retired from business, making his home at No. 111 South Center street, Joliet.

In earlier life Mr. Kelly was an active member of the Joliet fire department. For twenty-seven years or more he has been identified with the Joliet Sharpshooters' Association. At state and national tournaments he has frequently received the first prize. At the first United States Sharpshooters' match in Jones' Woods, New York, he won one of the first prizes, and he received a medal at the Centennial in Philadelphia in 1876. He is still a member of the association. In politics he is independent, and in religious connections holds membership with St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church.

The marriage of Mr. Kelly, in Joliet, united him with Miss Maria Elizabeth Hendricks, who

was born in Rockford, Ill., but was reared in Joliet. She was one of a family of seven, the eldest of whom, Miles, was killed by the Indians when crossing the plains to California in 1849; D. P., ex-city attorney of Joliet, is now engaged in the practice of law in Chicago; Thomas A., formerly a druggist and hospital steward of Company D, Ninetieth Illinois Infantry, during the Civil war, is now a farmer in Oklahoma; J. C. is an attorney in Chicago; and B. L. also resides in that city; Margaret, Mrs. Nugent, is a resident of Chicago; and Maria E., Mrs. Kelly, completes the family circle. Her father, Thomas Hendricks, was a contractor and builder and came from New York state to Illinois in 1843. Her mother, Margaret, daughter of Daniel Quigley, was born in Athlone, Ireland, in December, 1817, and crossed the ocean in 1834, afterward marrying Mr. Hendricks in Syracuse, N. Y. Her children were reared in Joliet, with the exception of five years spent in Rockford, where Mrs. Kelly was born. Mrs. Hendricks is a woman of strong character and many admirable qualities. Though now advanced in years, she is active and vigorous, and is devoted to the welfare of Mrs. Kelly's family, with whom she makes her home. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have six children, viz.: Eugene and Edward, who have charge of the Kansas ranches and are engaged in the cattle business there; Leo, who is a student in Notre Dame University in Indiana; Margaret, Marie and Catherine, at home.

**P**HILIP MERSINGER. At the time that Mr. Mersinger settled in Joliet, September 10, 1878, the city had a population of only eleven thousand. He has witnessed its subsequent growth and had aided in the development of its business interests. Meantime, by his ability and energy, he has become the owner of the largest sewing machine business in the state outside of Chicago. By fair and just dealings with all, he has established a large trade, which

is not limited to his home town, but extends throughout this section of the state, four traveling men taking orders for machines in Will and adjacent counties. The location of the store is No. 109 South Ottawa street, where may be found on sale New Home, Standard, White and Domestic machines, also some eight cheaper grades of machines. In addition to machines, he has also built up a large trade in pianos and organs, and handles all kinds of musical instruments, making a specialty of the Kimball and Emerson piano and the Kimball organ.

The record of the Mersinger family is traced back to a distant period in the history of the province of Wurtemberg, Germany. There our subject's father, John, was born and reared, and there he carried on a mercantile store. Accompanied by his wife, who was Jannetta Whiteman, of Ruchhaim, Germany, and their two children, he came to America and settled in Pennsylvania, opening a store at Penn's Valley, Center County, and remaining in that county until his death. In religion he was a Lutheran. After coming to this country he identified himself with the Democratic party. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, five of whom attained mature years and four are living. Several of the children were born in Center County, Pa., and among these was Philip, whose birth occurred August 8, 1840. He was a mere boy when he began to be self-supporting and for a number of years managed some of the largest farms in Center and Union Counties and gained a reputation as a good financier and trustworthy manager. However, the exposure in inclement weather brought on rheumatism, and he was forced to seek another occupation. In 1869 he began in the sewing machine business near Center Hall, his native town, where he made his home for some years. In 1878 he came west, intending to settle in Kansas, but the three preceding years of poor crops had ruined business in that state, so he returned as far east as Joliet. In point of years of business activity he is the oldest man in the machine trade in this city. In his work he is efficiently assisted by his wife, who is a lady of superior ability and who takes entire charge of the



business when he is absent. She bore the maiden name of Sarah E. McCormick, and is a daughter of William and Margaret (Myers) McCormick, of Scotch-Irish and German parentage. She was born in Center County, Pa., where she was reared, educated and married.

In politics Mr. Mersinger is independent. During and after the Civil war he was for four years a special police officer in Philadelphia. He has never cared for political offices, preferring to give his time to his business and its interests. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic Order and of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He was a charter member of the first lodge, Knights of Pythias, that was organized in Philadelphia (which was the second in the United States), and in the same city he also joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was reared in the Lutheran faith, but usually attends the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which his wife is a member. They have no children, but are rearing two children of Mrs. Mersinger's brother, Andrew and Candace McCormick.

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**J**OHAN F. QUINN, proprietor of an undertaking establishment at No. 407 North Chicago street, Joliet, is a well-known Democrat and has served as chairman of the city central committee. In 1897 he was elected city treasurer on the Democratic ticket and served for two years, retiring in May, 1899. From 1881 to 1883 he served as assistant supervisor of Joliet Township. He also takes an active part in various fraternities, being a member of the Court of Honor, the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Knights of Columbus, a member of the board of managers of the Modern Woodmen of America, and county president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. During the period of his connection with steel and iron works in Joliet he was prominent in organizations composed of workers in these mills. He assisted in organizing Stone City Lodge No. 4, Rollers, Hookers and Catch-

ers, with which he remained identified until its disbandment. He also aided in the organization of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers; and was the first president of Stone City Lodge No. 4 of the same, holding the office for some years; he rose to be vice-president of the fourth district, comprising Illinois, Wisconsin and some of the west. On retiring from the steel business he resigned the office, but still remains an honorary member of the order. During the period of his membership in the association he attended every national convention that was held and took a leading part in the proceedings of each.

Mr. Quinn was born in Winchester, Va., April 6, 1853, a son of Bernard and Maria (Carroll) Quinn, natives respectively of County Kildare and Queens County, Ireland. His father, who graduated from the University of Dublin with the degree of C. E., followed surveying and also engaged in teaching school in and near Winchester. He died in West Virginia in 1862. His wife, who is still living, makes her home in Keyser, W. Va. They are the parents of seven children, six of whom attained mature years, namely: Mary, who died in Cumberland, Md.; James C., a farmer in Missouri; John F.; Bernard, who is engaged in farming in western Nebraska; Daniel, a merchant at Keyser, W. Va.; and Julia, whose home is in Chicago.

When our subject was nine years of age his father died. The war occurring at the same time, he was deprived of advantages he might otherwise have enjoyed. From West Virginia he went to Cumberland, Md., and thence to Columbus, Ohio, where he secured work at the rolls in a rolling mill. From there he removed to Sandusky, Ohio. In the spring of 1872 he came to Joliet and secured employment in the old iron mill, remaining there until an accidental injury to his foot by a hot rail disabled him for work for a year. Upon his recovery, the steel mill having meantime been completed, he began to work at the rolls in it, remaining there until 1883, when he resigned in order to embark in business. Going to Aurora, he opened a livery and undertaking establishment and continued in



that city until 1890, when he returned to Joliet. Since then he has carried on a general undertaking business. He is connected with the Illinois State Undertakers' Association. His services as a funeral director and embalmer are in frequent demand, and he is known as a man possessing a thorough knowledge of his business and an accommodating, gentlemanly disposition.

In Joliet, December 28, 1880, Mr. Quinn married Miss Mary A. Downey, who was born in Bremen Township, Cook County, Ill., a daughter of Peter and Catherine (O'Sullivan) Downey, natives of Queens and Kerry Counties, Ireland. Her father, on coming to America, settled in Ohio, thence went to Indiana and in 1847 came to Illinois, where he engaged in contracting on the Rock Island Railroad. Meantime he bought a farm in Bremen Township, and afterward gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1875 he bought a farm in Channahon Township, Will County, and afterward resided there until his death, in 1892. Since then his widow has made her home with Mrs. Quinn. Of eleven children, six now living, Mrs. Quinn was the oldest daughter, and by her marriage she has two sons, Bernard J. and John Francis. Mr. Quinn and his family are connected with St. Mary's Catholic Church.

REV. WILLIAM BOHLER WALKER, rector of Christ Episcopal Church of Joliet, was born in Atlanta, Ga., February 3, 1852, a son of Matthew Talbot and Maria (Bohler) Walker, natives of Augusta, Ga. His paternal grandfather, George Mims Walker, was born in the Rappahannock district, Va., and married Mary Tyler Walker, a relative of George Walton, who was a signer of the declaration of independence. Removing to Georgia he followed the profession of a lawyer, and attained considerable prominence in that state. Matthew Talbot Walker, who was a druggist in Georgia, afterward entered the railroad service, and for years before his death was connected with the

Western Atlantic (now the Georgia, Louisville & Nashville) road. During the Civil war he was connected with the government service. At the time Atlanta was besieged by the northern troops he and his family were in such danger that they were forced to flee from the city. On their return they found their residence destroyed and their property laid waste, and they were obliged to live in a stable until a house could be built. He continued to make Atlanta his home until his death, in 1896. His wife, who was a daughter of William Bohler, of Georgia, is still living in Atlanta. Of their six children who attained years of maturity all but one still survive, William Bohler being the eldest of the family. The daughter, Mrs. Henry Z. Harris, resides in Atlanta. Three sons are connected with the railroad service, George and Matthew Talbot being employes of the Georgia, Louisville & Nashville Railroad at Atlanta, while Henry is employed with the road in Nashville.

The early years in the life of William Bohler Walker were filled with excitement. The country was plunged in a bitter civil strife, and the Walker family lived in one of the Confederate strongholds, against which the fire of federal guns was directed. He assisted in making ammunition for the confederate army, but was, of course, too young to enter the service. In the spring of 1865, at the close of the war, the family returned to Atlanta, from which they had been refugees. He prepared for college in Capt. William Bray's school in that city. In 1869 he entered the sophomore class, University of Georgia, from which he graduated in 1872 with the degree of A. B. Immediately afterward he began to read law with Alexander H. Stephens, a man of national distinction, with whom he made his home at Crawfordsville until Mr. Stephens re-entered public life. He was admitted to the bar in Atlanta in 1874, but never practiced the profession.

It was his mother's hope that Mr. Walker might enter the ministry. This plan he had at first opposed, preferring the law, but afterward he began to be favorably drawn toward the ministerial profession, for which, indeed, he seemed

to possess marked qualifications. Impelled by the persuasions of friends and relatives, and also by his own thoughtful, matured judgment, he decided to turn his attention from the law to the ministry. January 1, 1875, he matriculated in Berkeley Divinity School, at Middletown, Conn., from which he graduated in 1877. He was ordained by Bishop John Williams, of Connecticut, in Holy Trinity Church, Middletown, in 1877. Returning to Georgia, he became rector of the Church of the Atonement in Augusta, where he remained for nine years. Meantime he was married in Connecticut, February 6, 1878, to Miss Bessie Beecher Shew, daughter of Dr. Joel Shew, a successful physician, and step-daughter of Dr. Winthrop B. Hallock, of Connecticut. The four children born of their union are Winthrop Hallock, Edwin Weed, William Bohler, Jr., and Beverly.

The climate of the south not agreeing with Mr. Walker, in 1884 he resigned his pastorate in Augusta and returned to Connecticut, where for three years he was rector of Christ Church in Stratford. He then accepted the rectorship of St. John's Church, in Dubuque, Iowa, where he remained for four years. In February, 1893, he came to Joliet as rector of Christ Church, and has since attained prominence as one of the scholarly ministers of the city. The church of which he is rector was organized thirty or more years ago, and contains in its membership many of the leading citizens of Joliet. Under the leadership of Mr. Walker every department of the work is in a prosperous condition, and the church attracts not only people well known in the city, but many visitors and strangers as well.

A mind so active as that of Mr. Walker cannot be confined within the bounds of strictly theological work or the usually-accepted duties of a rector; for he is a citizen, public-spirited and progressive, and nothing that is of importance to the body politic is uninteresting to him. Every movement for the advancement of Joliet finds in him a champion. Every work originated in behalf of the people enlists his sympathy and endorsement. His interest in the city's welfare is of that stable character which adheres with steadfast

support to principles of undoubted value. While he is a believer in the platform as adopted by the gold wing of the Democratic party, he recognizes the good in all parties, and is himself an enthusiastic supporter of the present (McKinley) administration in the many problems brought before it for solution. His name has been brought into especial prominence through his single-handed fight with the railroad interests. In an article he made the statement that the city should elect for its officials men who would not be subsidized by railroad and street-car lines. On account of this statement the railroad took away his clergyman's permit entitling him to half fare. He fought the matter in the courts, arguing his own case, and defeated them so completely that they sent him a permit, with the request that he use it. However, he returned it by the next mail, stating that he would accept no favors from them, as he had not cared for the permit, but was opposing boldly corporations that endeavored to subsidize the representatives of the people. The Interstate Commerce Commission decided in his favor, establishing the fact that the half-rate was his legal right, and not a courtesy. The case, which was carried on for almost two years, attracted a great deal of attention and started a reform movement along the line of passes.

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**B**EN S. BRUCE. The business of which Mr. Bruce is the head is one of the largest of its kind in Joliet. He started it upon a very small scale, using only four cars the first year, but it increased so rapidly that he was soon obliged to devote his entire attention to its supervision. For a time the firm name was Bruce Brothers, but on the 20th of February, 1899, the Bruce Ice Company was incorporated, with L. B. Bruce as president and E. S. Bruce secretary and treasurer. The office of the company is at No. 1510 Collins street, Joliet, and their ice-houses are in this city and at Lake Zurich, on the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad, fifty-two miles north



of Joliet, in Lake County. At the latter place they have forty acres, supplied by natural springs that secure the finest quality of ice. The plant is in every respect modern, and is provided with the modern equipments, including the latest steam elevators. The ice-house has a capacity of twenty-one thousand tons. To such an extent has the business grown that the supply of cars will soon reach two thousand per annum.

The gentleman to whose energy and good judgment the growth of this enterprise is due was born at the old Bruce homestead, two and one-half miles north of Joliet, November 19, 1869. His father, James, was born in Aberdour, Scotland, a son of George Bruce, the owner of a mill in Scotland, but during his last years a resident of the United States. When twenty-one years of age James Bruce came to America, in 1844, settling in Joliet. After working for a short time as foreman in the building of the Rush street bridge, Chicago, and as superintendent of the building of the locks on the Illinois and Michigan canal, he bought a tract of raw prairie land near Joliet and turned his attention to the improvement of a farm. In 1870 he bought the old Taylor property and opened a stone quarry, which he operated until his death, being the principal member of the firm of James Bruce & Co. He laid out the Bruce, Hopkins and Bacon subdivisions of Joliet. His death occurred in this city December 13, 1898. The lady whom he married, Jane Stephens, was also of Scotch birth. She was a daughter of E. Stevens, who came to America and settled on a farm near Millburn, Ill. She is still living at the old homestead and is now fifty-eight years of age. Of his eight children, six are living, viz.: William J., superintendent of the Bruce Stone Co.; E. S.; James, Jr., member of the firm of Bruce & Jameson, at Marseilles and Seneca, Ill.; Robert, a student in the University of Illinois; Belle, wife of George Stephens; and Margaret, Mrs. John Jameson.

The education of our subject was obtained in public schools and the Chicago Commercial College. For three years he was shipping clerk for the Barrett Hardware Company, after which he traveled, in Texas, in the interests of Lambert &

Bishop. One year later he entered the office of James Bruce & Co., of which he was placed in charge, and he still owns a one-third interest in the company, but of recent years his time has been given exclusively to the ice business. In politics his sympathies are with the Republican party and he votes the straight party ticket at local and general elections. Socially he is a member of the Union Club. His marriage, in Chicago, Ill., united him with Miss Luella Burdick, a former classmate, who was born in Lockport, Ill., daughter of A. S. Burdick, an old settler of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce have one son, Harold A. Bruce.

**H**ENRY W. KOENIG, who has made his home in Joliet since 1883, is a well-known contractor and builder of this city, and has followed this occupation here since 1891. Being a man of quickness of comprehension, keen discrimination and intelligence, combined with a thorough practical knowledge of his occupation, he has met with constant success in his business, and has been given the contracts for scores of residences in Joliet and surrounding towns. Every contract is carried out faithfully and honestly, thus adding to his reputation and increasing the confidence in which he is held by the general public. Besides residences he has had charge of the erection of a number of public buildings, including the Lincoln schoolhouse. At times he has been called to take charge of work as much as two hundred miles distant from Joliet, although the bulk of his contracts have been in or near the city. He built the residence he owns and occupies at No. 209 Cassiday avenue.

In Wackstadt, Erfurt, Prussia, Germany, the subject of this sketch was born November 13, 1850, a son of Michael and Barbara (Hartleib) Koenig, natives of the same place. His father and grandfather spent their entire lives on the family homestead. He was next to the oldest of

four children, of whom he alone lives in America. At fourteen years of age he was apprenticed to the carpenter's trade in Bischhagen, where he served for three years, and then worked in Hamburg for another three years. In 1870 he crossed the ocean from Hamburg to New York. After a short time in Chicago he went to Geneseo, Ill., thence to St. Louis, Mo., working at his trade in both places. In 1878 he was appointed foreman of buildings on the Rock Island Railroad, and this position he held until 1890, meantime having charge of the building of freight and passenger depots between Chicago and Rock Island and between Chicago and Peoria. His work was most acceptable to the company and proved financially remunerative to himself, but the constant change from town to town was less pleasant than his present business connections, which enable him to enjoy more fully the pleasures of domestic life. He is a member of the Joliet Builders' Association.

In national politics Mr. Koenig gives his support to the Democratic party. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. His marriage was solemnized in Tamaqua, Pa., and united him with Miss Louisa Klumpp, who was born in that city, being the daughter of Adam Klumpp, a contractor and builder of breakers in that region. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Koenig are Callie C., Etta L., Otto A. and Bertha S.

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**E**DWARD H. WERNER, D. D. S. The family represented by this well-known dentist of Joliet traces its ancestry to a long line of German forefathers. His father, William Werner, the first of the name in America, was born at Frankfort-on-the-Main, Hesse-Darmstadt, February 5, 1831, and emigrated to the United States when twenty years of age. After three months in Stroudsburg, Pa., in October, 1851, he settled in Frankfort, Ill., and for a year was employed as a stone mason in the building of the Rock Island Railroad. Upon removing to Joliet in 1852 he became interested in quarrying,

and afterward had the contract for building many of the most substantial stone buildings in the city. In 1856 he was elected commissioner of highways and served as such for three years. From 1861 to 1865 he was an alderman, and for seven years he served as a member of the board of supervisors. In 1863 he was appointed commissioner in charge of the drafting of soldiers into the army. September 7, 1853, he married Barbara Goebel, a native of Prussia. Four sons were born to their union, Frederick William, Frederick Charles, George W. and Edward H. The last named was born in Joliet December 9, 1867. His education was begun in the grammar schools of the city. At an early age he determined to enter the dental profession and his studies were directed with that end in view. The first knowledge he acquired of the science was in 1884, when he began to study under Dr. Staehle, and he continued with the same preceptor until 1889. In the meantime he had entered the New York College of Dental Surgery, where he took the regular course of lectures, graduating in 1889, with the degree of D. D. S.

Returning to Joliet Dr. Werner at once opened an office in this city and gave his attention to the building up of a professional practice. His thorough study of the science had fitted him for successful practice, and he had many friends among the people of the city to encourage him by their influence and interest. He has continued in Joliet ever since, with the exception of four years spent at Port Byron, Rock Island County, Ill. In his practice he avails himself of the latest improvements in dentistry, and is thoroughly up-to-date in all of his work. His office is at No. 104 Chicago street. He is a member of the Alumni Association, New York College of Dental Surgery, and is connected with the Knights of the Globe. Politically he supports the principles of the Democracy. January 22, 1890, he married Miss Leonora Barber, daughter of S. J. Barber, of Joliet. She was born in Grundy County, Ill., and is a graduate of the Joliet high school. The two children born of their marriage are named Julia and Clarence Edward.







*Fred. Schring*



## FRED SEHRING.

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**F**RED SEHRING, deceased, late president of the Fred Sehring Brewing Company of Joliet, was born in Laugen, Dukedom of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, December 19, 1834, and received the rudiments of his education in the excellent schools of his native land. When thirteen years of age, in 1847, he came to America with his parents, Weigand and Margaretha (Keim) Sehring. The Sehring family is one of prominence among the German-Americans of Will County. Its founders here were Weigand Sehring and his wife, who settled in Frankfort Township in 1847. Weigand was a soldier in the war of 1813 in Germany, which decided the fate of Europe. When he came to the United States he engaged in farming. In 1854 he and his family removed to Joliet and engaged in the hotel business, his son being interested with him in this enterprise.

In spite of the fact that Fred Sehring had only eight months' instruction in the schools of America, by diligent application he acquired a good English education and in early life laid the foundation of the broad knowledge that proved so helpful to him in later years. In 1860 he was appointed deputy clerk in the recorder's office in Joliet, a position which he filled with such ability as to win recognition. In 1863 he was elected county treasurer. This office he filled with such fidelity and success that he was re-elected at the expiration of his term of two years, and served until 1867. Upon retiring from office he purchased an interest in the brewing firm of Joseph Braun & Co., which founded what is to-day one of the finest plants in the northwest. The total capital at first was only \$6,000 and during the

first year only three men were employed, but the total output reached one thousand barrels. Two years later it had increased to eighteen hundred barrels. Upon the death of Mr. Braun, in 1870, a change was made in the business, Mr. Sehring securing the active control, and changing the name to Columbia Brewery. The success already gained continued during the ensuing years. He put his whole soul into his business, with a determination that always wins success; yet, while determined, aggressive and pushing, he was upright and honorable in every transaction and recognized no line between meanness and dishonesty. He believed that the man who would purposely cheat his friend would cheat his God. His heart was kind, and full of warm responses to generous natures.

The constant increase in the business led Mr. Sehring to make a change. In January, 1883, he incorporated the Fred Sehring Brewing Company, with himself as president, his son Henry, vice-president, his son-in-law, Henry F. Piepenbrink, secretary and treasurer, and his son Louis J., superintendent. The new corporation began with a capital of \$50,000. He continued to act as president until his death. At the same time he was a director of the Will County National Bank. Fraternally he was a prominent Odd Fellow and frequently represented his lodge in the grand lodge. He was also a Knight Templar Mason, belonging to Joliet Commandery No. 4. Politically he believed in Democratic principles. In 1874 he was elected to the city council, where he served for eight years. During the same year he was the Democratic candidate for the state senate against A. O. Marshall, Republican, and

C. Frazier, the Granger candidate. The returns showed Mr. Marshall elected by twelve majority. Mr. Sehring contested the election. The matter was taken into the legislature, where one hundred and forty illegal votes were proved to have been cast against him and which were placed to his credit, by the report of a majority of the committee on the contest; but the Republicans and Grangers combined against him, casting twenty-six votes for Marshall, while twenty-three were cast for him. He favored movements for the benefit of the people and the development of his home town, and proved himself a generous, public-spirited citizen. He died July 2, 1892, and is survived by his wife, who resides at the old homestead, with her unmarried children, Susan E. and Louis J. Mrs. Fred Sehring was a daughter of Jacob and Barbara Bez, who came from Wurtemberg, Germany, to America in 1853 and settled in Joliet, where she was married to Mr. Sehring January 16, 1855. Besides her son and daughter who reside with her she has two daughters and two sons, viz.: Maggie, wife of Henry F. Piepenbrink; Henry, a member of the Sehring Brewing Company; Anna C., who is the wife of Dr. A. A. Poehner and resides in San Francisco, Cal.; and George F., who is teller in the Will County National Bank, and was married in 1896 to Miss Louisa Kramer, of this city.

A record of the life of Fred Sehring would not be complete without mention of his wife. Though her sphere was in the home, yet from that place she aided and encouraged her husband in his struggle for success. Thus she assisted in the up-building of the business that has made the name of Sehring prominent and influential. From her home she made many errands of mercy to the homes of the poor and needy, but her deeds of devotion and self-sacrifice were always quietly done, being of the kind of which it may be said that the left hand knoweth not the benefactions of the right. Even the weight of advancing years has not lessened her activities. No one has ever left her presence discouraged, and her charitable spirit is so broad that it knows no distinction of creed or nationality.

The death of Mr. Sehring did not prove fatal

to the business he had built up. This was left in safe hands, with his sons and son-in-law. The eldest of the sons, Louis J., succeeded him as president, and is still the general manager of the business. He was born in Joliet April 12, 1858, and at an early age learned the rudiments of the brewing business in his father's brewery. Afterward he served apprenticeships with Bernheimer & Schmidt, of New York City, and the Peter Schoenhofen Brewing Company, of Chicago. Returning to Joliet in October, 1877, he was at once appointed superintendent of the brewery, and has retained the position as manager up to the present time. In character he possesses many points of resemblance to his father. Like him, he is honorable in every transaction and conducts the business in a straightforward, energetic and honest way. Like him, too, he believes in aiding measures for the benefit of the city. From 1885 to 1887 he represented the third ward in the city council. He is a member of the Sharpshooters' Association and is rated as a crack shot. His time, however, is given to business matters rather than to politics or recreation, although he does not neglect the latter.

Henry Sehring was born in Joliet in 1861 and received a public school education. When seventeen years of age he entered the brewery with which he has since been connected. In 1883 he was elected vice-president, an office that he still fills. In 1889 he married Miss Katie Arnold, who was born in Matteson, Ill., and by whom he has a son, Arnold.

The brewery is situated at the corner of Bridge and Summit streets, where the company owns five acres. The water is secured from two springs and is, by chemical test, proved to be especially adapted to the brewing business. In 1894 a bottling establishment was started. Two kinds of beer are manufactured, the Standard-Pale and Muenchener, which are sold in Joliet and adjoining towns. With the building and machinery, which are of great value, there is a capacity of thirty thousand barrels annually. At present the sales amount to the full capacity of the plant, and plans are being drafted for large improvements to increase the capacity.



The constant growth of the business is due to the wise judgment and enterprise of the officers of the company, who have devoted years of effort to the building up of the plant.

**W**ILLIAM H. LANFEAR has a well-cultivated farm on section 29, Homer Township, where he is engaged in general farm pursuits and in raising Norman horses, cattle and hogs. He holds an honorable place among the men of character and principle, who have had the making of this county and who are active in sustaining its reputation as one of the rich agricultural regions of the state. Having lived in the same neighborhood since a child, he is well acquainted both with the people and the advantages of the township, and has gained a high position among his fellow-citizens. After his marriage, in 1852, he settled on a portion of the homestead, and has since built a neat residence, substantial barns and good fences, has made other valuable improvements, including the planting of trees, and has brought the two hundred and thirty-four acres comprising the farm under excellent cultivation. Few citizens of the township have resided here longer than he. It has been his privilege to witness the wonderful transformation of the county during the past sixty-five years, and in the development of its resources he has been an active factor.

The Lanfear family was founded in America by Seth Lanfear, a native of Holland, who crossed the ocean in the "Mayflower," and settled in New England. From there his descendants moved to Montgomery County, N. Y. Joshua Lanfear, our subject's grandfather, was born in that county and died on a farm there when ninety-six years of age. His brothers served in the continental army during the Revolutionary war. His son, Asa, who was born in Montgomery County in 1793, became the owner of a large farm in his native county, but after a time decided to seek a home in the then sparsely

settled west. In 1834 he made a prospecting trip to what is now Will County, Ill. Being pleased with the location he bought a farm on section 29, Homer Township, and began to break ground and build fences. In the spring of 1835 he brought his family to the new home, where he built a log cabin and began life in the midst of pioneer surroundings. From the first he was prospered. He tilled the soil, reaping large harvests of grain, and also engaged in raising stock. He was a Republican in politics and served his district as a school director. For years he was a deacon in the Baptist Church and Sunday-school superintendent. June 23, 1871, he passed from earth, being then almost seventy-eight years of age. His marriage united him with Olive Burgess, who was born in New York in 1797 and whose step-father was killed by Indians. She died in 1883 at the home of her son, William H., when eighty-five years of age. Of her ten children, the following survive: Ardelia, the widow of Joseph B. Rowley; Lydia H., the widow of Alfred G. Rowley; Enon, a resident of Texas; William H.; Mary J., the widow of William Morse; Joel S.; and Olive M., wife of Curtis Morse.

In 1832 Selah, a brother of Asa Lanfear, came to Will County with his family and settled in Homer Township, where he died at the age of thirty-three years. His body was interred in the burial-ground on section 30, being the first to be buried there. His widow was eighty-four at the time of her death. During the Black Hawk war he was captain of a company and built a fort east of Lockport. Years after he had come to Illinois, his brother, Enon Lanfear, brought his family here and settled in Homer Township.

On Christmas day of 1830 our subject was born at Sempronius, Cayuga County, N. Y. When five years of age he was brought to this county by his parents. His education was obtained in common schools, which he attended a few months each year. February 25, 1852, he married Miss Emily M. Savage, a sister of Hon. Amos Savage, in whose sketch the family history appears. She was born in Granville, N. Y., July 24, 1830, and

was three years of age when her parents settled in this county. Since then she has resided in this locality, where her family have always stood high. She was educated in the pioneer schools of Illinois and exhibited ability for teaching. She taught four terms in Homer Township successfully. For the first term her compensation was but \$1.00 per week and "board around." During the last year she received double this amount, much to the envy of some of her associates. Of the seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Lanfear three are living, namely: Mary A., who is the wife of Joseph Brown, of this county; Albert H., at home; and Nettie E., wife of Frank E. Hyatt, of Lockport. Four children are deceased: Asa W., born November 8, 1854, died March 22, 1871; Ida M., born August 2, 1856, died January 6, 1860; Charlie E., born November 3, 1872, died July 24, 1873; and Willie H., born November 3, 1872, died September 13, 1874. The family are identified with the Baptist Church at Lockport, of which Mr. Lanfear is a trustee.

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**W**ILLIAM F. McMASTERS, city clerk of Joliet, is a descendant of a Scotch family that was identified with the early history of North Carolina. His parents, William F. and Elizabeth (Allen) McMasters, were natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Ohio and died in the latter state, the father in 1864, the mother in 1872. The maternal grandfather, William Allen, was a farmer of Jefferson County, Ohio. The paternal grandfather, Rev. David McMasters, was a son of Rev. James Masters (as the name was then spelled), and a native of Chatham County, N. C., where his family had been slaveholders, but becoming convinced of the injustice of the institution they finally set their slaves free. David McMasters and two of his brothers became ministers in the Methodist Episcopal Church. While living in Pennsylvania he married Miss Anna Starr. Later they removed from that state to Mount Pleasant, Jefferson County, Ohio.

They were accompanied by a ten-year old girl, Lucy Norman, whom they reared and who was married by Rev. Mr. McMasters to Mr. Stanton; they became the parents of Edwin McMasters Stanton, the famous war secretary of the Rebellion.

At an early age William F. McMasters, Sr., our subject's father, accompanied his parents to Jefferson County, Ohio. There he carried on a furniture business and later was proprietor of a boot and shoe store, also of an insurance agency. For some years he served as county auditor.

A member of a family of two daughters and one son, our subject was born in Steubenville, Ohio, April 10, 1863. After his mother's death he came to Illinois and made his home with an aunt in Canton, where he attended the public schools. At the age of twelve years he secured work on a farm and from that time he earned his own livelihood. In 1876 he became an apprentice to the cigar-maker's trade, which he followed in Canton until 1881, and afterward traveled through the east and in Canada. In 1886 he was married in Galesburg, Ill., to Mrs. Nettie (Baldwin) Krollman, who was born in Monmouth, this state, being a daughter of George Baldwin, an early settler of Monmouth and proprietor of the Baldwin house in that city.

April 10, 1890, Mr. McMasters arrived in Joliet, where he has since made his home. He was employed in a cigar factory until 1899, being foreman during four years of that time. In the spring of 1899 he was elected city clerk on the Democratic ticket, receiving a majority of two hundred and forty-five. On the 1st of May he took the oath of office, and has since, with the aid of two assistants, discharged the duties of the position to the satisfaction of all concerned. The Democratic party receives his steadfast support, and he is actively interested in political matters. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. During his active connection with the Cigar Maker's Union he frequently was elected its president, and he was also for some years president and financial secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Council of Will County. He and his wife have two



daughters, Estel and Georgia, and by her first marriage Mrs. McMasters also has a daughter, Maude Krollman, who is now a student in the high school of Monmouth, Ill.

**H**ON. JOHN B. MOUNT, mayor of Joliet. The Mount family is of English and German descent and was early represented in New Jersey. Elias P. Mount, who was born near Morristown, N. J., the son of a brick manufacturer, learned the builder's trade in Newark, and about 1855 came to Illinois. Settling in Jacksonville, he engaged in business as a contractor and builder. An active Democrat, he however never held public office. In religion he was a Presbyterian, and fraternally a Master Mason. Among his contracts were those for the courthouse at Jacksonville, large portions of the insane asylum, deaf and dumb school and the institute for the blind; twice he built the Illinois Female College. He built many of the most substantial business houses and residences in that city, and was one of its first prominent contractors. He died there in October, 1892. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Johnson, was born near New London, Conn., the daughter of a farmer whose ancestors came from England and served in the colonial army during the Revolution; her mother was a member of an old Puritan and Revolutionary family to which belonged ex-Governor Morgan, of New York. Mrs. Elizabeth Mount died in January, 1898, at the age of sixty-four years. Of her six children all but one are living.

The eldest of the family, John B., was born in Jacksonville, Ill., January 16, 1859. He was educated in public schools and Whipple Academy, where he took a college preparatory course. In 1876 he entered a drug store, where he clerked, and at the same time studied pharmacy, remaining there until 1882. He then came to Joliet and opened a drug store on the corner of Chicago and Jefferson streets, where he remained for thirteen

years. He then bought the property at No. 702 Washington street, near Eastern avenue, where he has since carried on a large business as druggist. Since 1889 he has been a stockholder and director in the Mutual Building and Loan Association. Fraternally he is identified with Matteson Lodge No. 175, A. F. & A. M., in which he is treasurer. Reared in the Baptist faith by his mother, he has always been in sympathy with the doctrines of that church and has aided its work. He was a charter member of the Stone City Union Club of Joliet and is still actively connected with it.

In Marseilles, Ill., Mr. Mount married Miss Annie L. Bruce, by whom he has a daughter, Margaret Bruce Mount, a member of the Joliet high school class of 1900. Mrs. Mount is a graduate of the Young Ladies' Atheneum at Jacksonville and is a cultured, educated lady, possessing many attractive traits of character. She is of Scotch parentage, her father, Alexander Bruce, having been born in Scotland, whence he emigrated to Illinois and engaged in banking in Marseilles until his death. He was also a prominent railroad contractor, his specialty being stone masonry for railroad bridges, and he bridged the Illinois and Mississippi rivers more than twelve times.

For some years Mr. Mount has been one of the leading Democrats of his city and has also served as treasurer of the county central committee. In 1893-94 he was city treasurer. With the exception of those two years he has filled the office of assistant supervisor since 1889, and is at present a member of the judiciary committee appointed to settle with the circuit clerk. In the spring of 1897 he was the Democratic nominee for mayor, but was defeated by two hundred and four votes. Two years later he was again nominated, and this time defeated Colonel Bennitt by nine hundred and eighty votes, assuming the duties of the office on the 1st of May, 1899, for a term of two years. In the capacity of mayor he is ex-officio president of all the public departments.

Alike in business circles and in public affairs Mr. Mount is, by common consent, accorded a high place. Successful in a financial sense, ex-

hibiting clearness of judgment and great energy in the conduct of his drug business, he has proved himself to be no less fitted for the functions of an office-holder, and has displayed a public spirit and force of character as the head of executive affairs in Joliet. The best interests of the city have been promoted by his influence. It is the testimony even of those opposed to him in politics that, as mayor, he has always protected the city's interests and defended its rights; and that, in the performance of his duties as executive, he is quick to recognize an important situation and equally quick in devising means of meeting it—qualities that have enabled him to perform efficiently the exacting duties of his office.

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**E**DWARD R. McCLELLAN, who is engaged in farming and cattle-raising on sections 22 and 23, Plainfield Township, was born in Will County, October 26, 1860, the only child of John and Arathusa (Brown) McClellan.

In 1745 three McClellan brothers came to America and settled, one in Connecticut, another in Pennsylvania and the third in western Massachusetts. From the Massachusetts settler descends the subject of this article. From the Pennsylvania descended Gen. George B. McClellan. Hugh McClellan, our subject's great-grandfather, was captain of a company of minute men from Shelburne and Colerain, Mass., who started from the front April 20, 1775, the day following the battle of Lexington. He served honorably throughout the Revolutionary war and participated in many hard-fought battles, among them the battle of Stillwater on the Hudson, where General Burgoyne had thrown a rope bridge across the river to be used as a means of retreat. A few days before that engagement the colonists were roused east of the Hudson. All of the pewter plates in their houses were melted into bullets. Although a child of Colonel McClellan had just died, he stopped only long enough for the burial, and with a fleet horse

overtook his men before they reached Stillwater. There the bridge was guarded by a company of thirty Hessians, all but one of whom were killed, this aiding materially in the defeat of Burgoyne and his bloodthirsty Indian allies. At the close of Shay's rebellion his home was made the repository of the arms and ammunitions of war of the little belligerent army, and a large room in his colonial mansion, known as the north chamber, was filled with them. There he also administered the oath of allegiance to the people.

Hon. Michael McClellan, son of the Revolutionary colonel, was elected on the Whig ticket to the Massachusetts legislature, in which he served for several terms. By his marriage to Jane Patterson he had eight children, of whom John was the youngest and is now the sole survivor. He received a public-school education and remained on the homestead until he attained his majority. From Massachusetts he came direct of Illinois and settled in Will County, buying one hundred and sixty acres of land in Plainfield Township. To this he added until he owned one hundred and eighty-five acres. There he remained, cultivating the soil and raising stock, until the fall of 1883, when he retired from farm cares. Since then he has made his home in Plainfield. During the existence of the Whig party he voted for its principles and afterward became a Republican. Since 1880 he has held the office of road commissioner, a position that he has filled with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the people.

The education of our subject was obtained in the schools of this county and the high school in Niles, Mich. Upon completing his course there he returned to the home place and began to assist in its management. He continued with his father until the latter's retirement to Plainfield, since which time he has been alone. He has made a specialty of the cattle business, making his farming secondary, and while he sells some oats, he is obliged to buy each year considerable corn for feeding. In buying cattle his preference is for the Durhams. He has added to his holding until he now operates two hundred and sixty-five acres, every part of which is now accessible



to running water. One hundred and thirty acres are under the plow, the remainder being used for the pasturage of stock. In addition to his cattle he keeps a few trotting horses on the place.

In the delegation work of the Republican party in his township Mr. McClellan has taken an active part, wielding an influence for the candidates of the party, but seeking no official honors for himself. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. November 27, 1883, he married Miss Carrie I. McAllister, daughter of Capt. Edward McAllister, of this township. They have two daughters, Inez A. and Vera E.

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**H**ON. HUGH HENDERSON. On the 22d of October, 1854, there was genuine grief in the state of Illinois, but its intensity and depth were most keenly felt in Joliet and Will County, where Judge Henderson's death, at that period, was in reality a public calamity. He was an ornament to the bar and the judiciary and elevated to a higher eminence every position he occupied. His selection to revise the laws and statutes of the state, at Springfield, a duty to which he devoted three months of active energy and an intelligent mind, trained in the legal lore of the past, and its application to the existing condition of the time, was an evidence of eminent qualifications to fill the highest office within the gift of the people. That they appreciated his merits and well-won honors was made evident by records that are now historical facts, that he was at that period the contemplated candidate for governor on the Democratic ticket, with a certainty of election to the gubernatorial chair.

In those days Illinois was a magnet of attraction for the youth, genius, intellect and manhood of other states, until it became the nursery of the builders of the nation, on the lines marked out by Washington, Jefferson and Jackson. If Kentucky furnished a Lincoln, New York contributed a Henderson, another of Nature's noblemen,

called away when his services to country and friends were most needed, and before his brilliant talents and faithful discharge of public duty had time to receive the recognition that was so certain of fulfillment.

Hugh Henderson was born on a farm in Norway, Herkimer County, N. Y., June 9, 1809. At an early age he aided his industrious parents, especially in spring and summer, when and wherever his services were available. In winter he attended the country school and laid the basis of an education that was achieved by a determination, characteristic of his spirit, to succeed in whatever duty he undertook. At the age of eighteen he taught school. This occupation he followed until he had saved sufficient to enter Fairfield College, New York. There, by close application, he forced his way to the foremost rank and graduated with high honors. Entering the law office of George Feeter, of Little Falls, N. Y., he never halted in his exertions to acquire a knowledge of all it was necessary he should know, in a profession he was destined to honor, and in which he was to become an authority on matters of jurisprudence.

In the spring of 1835 he anticipated Horace Greeley's advice and came west, showing his good judgment by locating in Joliet, where he opened an office on the east side of Chicago street, north of Cass street. His letters to parents and friends at this period were prophetic, read in the light of to-day, and he contributed more than his share, with the progressive pioneers of that time, to prepare the way for the prosperous conditions of the present, which makes a great future inevitable.

December 23, 1837, he married Helen Myers, who was born in Herkimer, N. Y., December 30, 1814, and who came to Joliet in 1835. Her father, Michael Myers, was an officer during the war of 1812, and her grandfather was Gen. Michael Myers, of Revolutionary fame. Her maternal grandfather was Army Surgeon Griswold, who afterward was elected governor of Connecticut. That the judge was happily married and received co-operation in his lofty, patriotic and political aspirations, was well under-

stood, but how could it be otherwise in the offspring of such an ancestry. Mrs. Henderson is alive to-day, at the age of eighty-five, in her forty-fifth year of widowhood; loyal and faithful to her husband's memory, with a mind clear and intelligent, showing in affliction the courage of her race, and with that depth of love for home and kindred for which they were noted. The old homestead, built in 1838 under the judge's supervision, and her every wish consulted in its erection, bears its old-time appearance and serves as an historic landmark. Its appearance demonstrates the mother's desire to retain in its entirety the home to which her husband was so attached, commemorative of struggles and triumphs. Progressive as the family are in everything else, the mother's feelings are too well understood and felt to have any change suggested that would rob the home of any recollection of its happiest hours.

The family consisted of four children. Margaret S., who resides at Lyons, Mich., is the widow of John A. Kelly, captain of Company K, One Hundreth Illinois Infantry, during the Civil war. Daniel C., who married Rose W. Woodruff, of New York, was for many years editor of the *Joliet Daily and Weekly Record* and died in 1898, highly esteemed by all who knew him. James E., publisher of the *Joliet Signal*, the oldest paper in the state, married Kate A. Alpine, who is at present public librarian. John D. is represented in the following sketch. Honest and upright in all their dealings, liberal and generous as the case demands, unassuming at all times, it need not be wondered at that the Henderson family are so highly esteemed in the community.

The old files of the *Record* and *Signal*, as well as the court records, bear ample testimony to Judge Henderson's success as a lawyer prior to his election as judge of the circuit court, to succeed Hon. Theophilus W. Smith. The seventh judicial circuit in those days embraced the counties of Will, Dupage and Iroquois. His acknowledged ability, illustrated in his able decisions, his impartiality in all cases and at all times, were no more conspicuous than his upright character, which won for him the respect

of the bar and the confidence and esteem of the community. No wonder then that his name and fame should spread to other districts and that he should be selected as the banner bearer of the Democratic party which had determined that his name should head the state ticket for governor of Illinois. However, Fate willed it otherwise. That parental affection characteristic of the family prompted him to pay a visit to the scenes of his boyhood days and to the old folks at home who cherished his memory. He left his family and Joliet October 1, 1854; he was in good health and spirits, and little dreamed it was the last parting from his dear ones. On the journey he caught a severe cold which developed into pneumonia, and he died on the 22d of the same month. No opposition was raised to the wishes of his relatives to have him laid to rest near his birthplace, and Norway cemetery contains all that is mortal of Judge Henderson, whose name will be perpetuated in the annals of his adopted city and state and whose memory is still green in the hearts of those who held him dear. At the December term of court, Mr. Osgood, by request of the bar, presented resolutions of respect which were adopted and spread on the records.

Joliet is proud of preserving the names of the pioneers worthy of honor and to her everlasting credit will it be placed that the judge's memory has been perpetuated by naming after him a school and a leading thoroughfare—the Henderson school and Henderson avenue.

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JOHN D. HENDERSON, of Joliet, a son of Judge Hugh Henderson, was born October 16, 1851, in the house where he now resides. Deprived of his father by death when he was too small to realize his loss, he was reared under the wise yet gentle rule of his mother, who gave him good educational advantages and fitted him for an honorable place in the business world. From early boyhood he was connected with railroad companies, being with the Chicago & Alton for



eleven years, the Santa Fe for six years, and the Rock Island for twelve years. When he began work he carried messages for the operator, who was none other than the present Sir William Van Horn, president of the Canadian Pacific. During all this time he was located in Joliet. Owing to failing health he was obliged to resign his position and seek other employment. In 1895 he embarked in the real-estate and loan business, which he has since followed, having his office in the Barber building. The change of occupation has proved helpful to him, for he now enjoys excellent health. At the same time he has been financially prospered and has accumulated a competency through his intelligent and industrious efforts. He opened a subdivision on Henderson avenue and Jackson street, just east of Spring Creek, and here he platted thirty-eight residence lots.

In politics, though not a partisan, Mr. Henderson is a staunch Democrat, adhering to the party in which his father was so prominent a figure for years. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen, and is also a member of Powhatan and Rebekah lodges and Eagle Encampment of Odd Fellows. December 22, 1880, at Lyons, Mich., he was united in marriage with Cora E. Coon, daughter of Peter Coon, a merchant of that town. Two children have been born of their marriage, Louis J. and Edna L.

**HON. HENRY SNAPP.** Through his honorable record as state senator and member of congress, Mr. Snapp's name and life are worthy of perpetuation in the annals of this county. He was born in Livingston County, N. Y., June 30, 1822, a son of Abram Snapp, who was a native of Pennsylvania (born in 1795) and descended from a Strassburg (Germany) family that settled in America about 1740. From Pennsylvania Abram Snapp removed to New York, where he worked as a farmer and cabinet-maker. In 1825 he settled in the western part

of New York, and was deputy sheriff in Rochester. In 1833, accompanied by his wife and four children, he started west, traveling via lake to Detroit, thence by team to Illinois, and establishing his home in what was known as "Yankee Settlement" (now Homer Township, Will County). It was then in Cook County, Will County not being organized until 1836. He entered a large tract of land and engaged extensively in farming, continuing until 1863, when he retired to Joliet. An accident that resulted in blood poisoning caused his death in 1865. He had served as an officer in the Baptist Church, in the work of which he was long a leader. His wife was Sarah Weed, member of an old eastern family and a cousin of Thurlow Weed. Of their three daughters and two sons, only two daughters are living, Mrs. Johnson, of Kankakee, and Mrs. Mather, of Joliet.

From the age of eleven years the life of Henry Snapp was identified with the growth of Will County. From his father he inherited a strong will and uncompromising integrity, together with intellectual traits of no common order. Upon attaining his majority he came to Joliet and read law with E. C. Fellows and S. W. Randall, and in 1843 he was admitted to the bar. For the legal profession his ready command of language, his quick wit and keenness of discrimination admirably fitted him. His mind was logical in its processes. He reasoned from cause to result, and the intricacies of complicated cases yielded to his acute reasoning faculties. In spite of his many duties and interests he never ceased to be a student of the law, and thus he kept himself in touch with every advance made in its various departments.

The qualities possessed by Mr. Snapp were such as fitted him for the public service. This was recognized by his fellow-citizens, who tendered him offices of responsibility and honor. In 1868 he was elected to the state senate. Four years later he resigned the office in order to accept the nomination to represent the sixth (now the seventh) congressional district in congress, to fill the unexpired term of Hon. B. C. Cook, resigned. On the expiration of the term he de-

clined renomination, but returned to Joliet and resumed his law practice, in which his subsequent years were passed. During the long period of his practice he had various partners. At first he was with Mr. Fellows, later was a member of the firm of Snapp & Breckenridge, afterwards was successively with Goodspeed & Snapp, and Goodspeed, Snapp & Knox, finally being with his son as Snapp & Snapp, practicing throughout the northern part of the state. During the war he and his father were stanch Abolitionists and supporters of the Union. He assisted in organizing the Republican party in this county and his services as speaker were frequently in demand at that time. In religion he was of the Baptist faith. He died in this city November 26, 1895, when seventy-three years of age.

The wife of Mr. Snapp was Mary Adeline Broadie, who was born in Delaware. One of her paternal ancestors took the side of the second pretender in Scotland and for that reason sought a new home in America. Her father came from Ohio to Kankakee, Ill., in 1833, and the next year settled in what is now New Lenox Township, Will County, where he died. He married a Miss White, of English ancestry. Mrs. Mary Adeline Snapp died in 1884, leaving five children, namely: Sarah M., who is the wife of Judge Dorrance Dibell, of Joliet; Elizabeth, who married George M. Campbell, of this city; Henry Douglas and Howard M., both of Joliet; and Charles, who is a business man in Memphis, Tenn.

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**H**OWARD M. SNAPP. As a potential factor in the work of the Republican party, Mr. Snapp is well known throughout this county. While he has never been a candidate for public office and has not sought official honors, he has nevertheless wielded a strong influence in all party matters and has perhaps accomplished more than any other citizen to secure victory for Republican principles in this locality. In 1884 he was made secretary of the county central com-

mittee, an office that he filled with efficiency until 1892, when he was promoted to the chairmanship of the committee. It is said that he has held this position for a longer period than any of his predecessors. In 1896 he was chosen a delegate to the national Republican convention in St. Louis, when William McKinley was nominated for president, and he has frequently been a delegate to conventions of lesser importance.

In Joliet, where he now resides, Mr. Snapp was born September 27, 1855, a son of Hon. Henry Snapp. His education was obtained in local schools and in Chicago University. At the close of the junior year he left the university and took up the study of law in the office of Hill & Dibell, continuing to read with that firm until he was admitted to the bar, in 1878, at Ottawa. From that time until 1888 he was with his father and Mr. Breckenridge, and later, with his father, formed the law firm of Snapp & Snapp, which partnership continued until the retirement of the firm's senior member in 1890. Since then Mr. Snapp has been alone. In addition to his private practice he has held the office of master in chancery since 1884, having been first chosen by Judge McRoberts and afterward reappointed every two years.

Fraternally Mr. Snapp is a member of Matteson Lodge, A. F. & A. M., also the chapter and council, Mount Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T., and Medinah Temple, N. M. S., of Chicago. His marriage in Kansas City, Kans., united him with Miss Alice Halsey, who was born in Henrietta, N. Y., a member of a prominent old family of Monroe County. Three children comprise their family, Dorrance, Helen and Howard M., Jr.

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**J**OHNSON FOLKERS is a prominent German-American citizen of Frankfort Station, who keeps abreast with the progress of the times, and has endeavored at all times to advance the interests of his adopted country. Ever since he was a boy, and from an early day in the his-



tory of this county, he has made his home here. His life of industry and his record for integrity in all relations of life have given him a standing in his community which might well be a source of gratification to any citizen. At one time he had many important business interests in his home town, but for some years past he has been practically retired from business cares, transferring his interests to his sons, in whose hands they have received careful attention.

Mr. Folkers was born in Ostfriesland, Hanover, Germany, June 11, 1836, a son of Frank Theilen Folkers and Ariane (Gummels) Folkers. His father was a large merchant in his native place, Neustadt Goedens, Germany, but after coming to America, in 1852, he turned his attention to farm pursuits. He died in Frankfort Station, Will County, March 14, 1893, when ninety-seven years of age. His wife had died in Germany in 1843, leaving five children, viz.: Rica, who lives at Frankfort Station; Angelina, widow of Philip Klamann; Peter, of West Superior, Wis.; Johnson; and Annie, wife of George Staufenberg, of Manhattan Township. The grandparents of our subject on his father's side were Didde Jansen Hinzaga and Anna Muttera Folkers, the former a miller by occupation, and known and honored as a good citizen and an honest man. In religious faith the family were members of the Lutheran Church.

In 1849 Johnson Folkers came to America with his uncle, Diederich Brumund, and settled on a farm where Mokena now stands, near Hickory Creek, Frankfort Township. For a few years he made his home with his uncle. Later he settled in what is now Greengarden Township. When he was fifteen he began to work out by the month, and continued as a farm hand until he was twenty-five. During the construction of the Rock Island Railroad he was employed as a teamster near Mokena. In 1853 he worked on the Michigan Central Railroad near Joliet. In 1863 he bought a piece of land adjoining Frankfort Station. Settling here, he embarked in the meat business, which he carried on until 1889, being the first to open a meat market in the town. Some years later he bought out the livery, and

this he carried on in addition to his market. Later he bought the Doty hotel. These three lines of business he conducted successfully until 1889, when he turned them over to his three sons, Frank, William and Peter.

While he never cared for office nor desired to be active in politics, Mr. Folkers takes an interest in public affairs and is a firm Republican. In April, 1861, he enlisted in Company F, Twentieth Illinois Infantry, and served in the same until 1862, when he was discharged on account of disability. With his regiment he was engaged principally in service on the frontier. He fought in the battle of Frederickstown with the western division of the army under Colonel Marsh. As a soldier he was prompt, reliable and faithful. On his return home from the front he married Sophia, daughter of John Eberhard, their wedding occurring February 23, 1862. Besides their three sons, they have reared two adopted daughters, Hattie and Mabel, bestowing on them the most careful attention and giving them excellent educational advantages.

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**M**ORRIS NIVER, a retired farmer living at Lockport, was born at Ulster County, N.Y., January 23, 1818, a son of James and Sarah (Terwilliger) Niver. His father was a farmer, shoemaker and local Methodist preacher. In 1853 he came to Illinois. After three years he moved to Clinton County, Iowa, where he engaged in farming for some years, and then retired, removing to Clinton, where he died at ninety-three years of age. His grandfather, Godfrey, was a German, and emigrated to America long before the Revolutionary war, settling in Ulster County, N.Y.

The subject of this sketch was the oldest of nine children, eight of whom grew to maturity and six are still living. He remained at home until he was seventeen, when he began to work on a farm and in a sawmill at \$10 and \$12 a month. Afterward, until he was twenty-one, he paid his father \$100 per year for his time. In 1839 his em-

ployer, Martin Rich, sent him to Michigan with a threshing-machine, but he worked there only three weeks, when he came to Will County, Ill., and secured a job of threshing on Hickory Creek. A week later he went to Plainfield, where he was employed in threshing, using the first horse-power threshing-machine brought into the county. During the season he followed threshing for seven years. He then rented a farm one mile south of Plainfield, where he lived for four years. Meantime he bought wild land three and one-half miles southeast of Plainfield, paying \$100 for eighty acres. Thirty-seven years later he sold the property for \$100 an acre. On locating in Lockport he bought seven lots, three of which he sold for residence lots.

In 1843 Mr. Niver married Mrs. Lucina Stowe, who was born in Lewis County, N. Y., September 9, 1820, and came to this county with her parents in 1840. Her father, a native of Connecticut, settled in Lewis County in boyhood and there learned the carpenter's trade. On coming to Illinois he settled near Plainfield. A few years later he moved near Ottawa, Ill., thence went to Wheatland, Iowa, where his wife died at fifty-two years of age. Afterward he made his home with his daughter until his death, when eighty-one years of age.

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**W**ILLIAM CORRIE is assistant general manager of the Joliet Limestone Company, which has its main office in the Chamber of Commerce building, Chicago, and its Joliet office on the corner of Rowell and Fourth avenues. The officers of the company are: Hugh Young, president; R. C. Harper, vice-president and general manager; and C. S. Metcalfe, secretary. The quarries owned by the company are the most extensive and their business the largest of any in Joliet. Besides the quarrying of stone, they are engaged in the manufacture of sawed and machine-dressed stone of all descriptions, curbing, engine beds, limestone sidewalks, etc.

Mr. Corrie was born in Greenock, Scotland,

December 12, 1846, a son of William and Isabella (Maine) Corrie, also natives of that country. His father, who was an expert silk buyer, brought his family to America in 1850 and settled in New York City, where he was employed by A. T. Stewart and James Beck as an expert in silk. In 1862 he removed to Tipton, Cedar County, Iowa, where he engaged in farming until he died. His wife, who was a daughter of John Maine, a carpenter, and a member of a very old and prominent family of Scotland, is still living in Iowa, and is now about ninety years of age. Of their two sons and two daughters, all are in Ida County, Iowa, except William, the oldest of the family and the subject of this sketch. He attended ward school No. 35, on Thirteenth street near Sixth, New York. In May, 1861, at the first call for volunteers, he enlisted as a drummer boy in the Twelfth New York Infantry, and afterward took a part in all the engagements of his regiment, including the first battle of Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, etc. At Gaines' Mill he was struck by a spent ball and lay unconscious for some time, and was reported among the killed. At this battle his regiment was so badly cut up that it was consolidated as guard for headquarters. On the day before the battle of Gettysburg he was mustered out at Frederick City, Md., but accompanied the command to Gettysburg and took part in that memorable engagement. Afterward he returned to New York and then went to Iowa, where his father had moved during his absence at the front.

At Muscatine, Iowa, Mr. Corrie again enlisted in the army, and was assigned to the scouting troops of the Mississippi marine brigade, attached to the treasury department, and ordered to protect the Mississippi River. They were mounted and took their horses with them on boats, going down the Mississippi from Memphis to New Orleans, then up the Red River, and having a skirmish with some of the southern troops almost daily. Near Rodney, Miss., Mr. Corrie was wounded in the leg, but soon returned to active service. At other times he was wounded, though not so seriously. He continued in the army until February, 1866, when he was honorably



discharged. After the war he came to Illinois, and resided successively in Ogle, Winnebago and Carroll Counties, being for a time in the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company as baggage-master and at Winnebago.

In 1887 Mr. Corrie came to Joliet, where he was time-keeper for the Young & Farrell Diamond Stone Sawing Company, with whom he was later employed as superintendent. For two years he was superintendent of the Detroit Brownstone Company, of Detroit, Mich., and for a similar period was superintendent of the Portland Stone Company in Indiana. Returning to Joliet in the spring of 1898, he became assistant general manager of the Joliet Limestone Company. He is a past commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and a past officer of the local lodge of Odd Fellows, also a member of the Knights of Pythias. In politics he is a Republican.

While living in Ogle County, Mr. Corrie married Miss Annie M. Black, who was born there, a daughter of William Black, who in an early day came to Illinois from Virginia. They are the parents of six children. The eldest, Belle, is the wife of Henry Schumann, who is one of the largest stone contractors in San Francisco, Cal., and, among other contracts, had that for the building of the Leland Stanford University. The other children are as follows: William Albert, a painter and paper-hanger, living in Joliet; E. J., who is connected with the Joliet Limestone Company; Mrs. Blanche Mathers, of Joliet; Bessie and Ruby, at home.

one of the local leaders of the Democratic party and takes the liveliest interest in the success of its candidates and principles. Besides the office he now holds, he has served as highway commissioner for two terms. By the board of supervisors he was appointed a member of the building committee in charge of the erection of the county poor farm buildings, on which \$22,500 was expended, and he faithfully discharged the trust reposed in him. For several years he was a member of the board of the poor farm, and at this writing he is a member of the committee to settle with the sheriff and the committee on fees and salaries.

The farm which Mr. Langdon occupies is situated in Troy Township, five miles west of Joliet. He was born in this township September 27, 1846. His father, John Langdon, came to the United States in early manhood and for a time made his home in New York state, but in 1835 settled in Illinois, taking up land in this township, of which he was one of the first settlers. After a time he purchased eighty acres, which made his farm one of two hundred and forty acres, and to the cultivation of this property he gave the subsequent years of his life. Prior to coming to America he married Bridget Gillespie. They became the parents of twelve children, of whom two sons and three daughters are now in this county: Mrs. Eliza Green and Mrs. Sarah Ryan (twins); Francis E.; Thomas; and Nellie, wife of Martin Langdon, of Omaha.

After having acquired a thorough knowledge of agriculture by working on the home farm, our subject started out for himself at twenty-two years of age. For four years he rented a place, after which he bought and removed to a farm of his own. However, since 1880 he has operated his present estate, where he farms two hundred and forty acres, making a specialty of raising corn, oats and hay. He also engages in raising cattle, mostly of the Durham breed. He is a member of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church of Joliet, to the work of which he is a regular contributor. January 3, 1871, he married Catherine Talbot, of this county. They are the parents of five children now living, namely:

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**T**HOMAS LANGDON. A lifelong resident of this county, familiar with its growth and interested in its prosperity, Mr. Langdon is especially qualified to discharge with efficiency his duties as supervisor of Troy Township. Four times he has been elected to this office, and his repeated selection for the place is ample evidence of his ability to fill it and the high esteem in which he is held by his fellow-citizens. He is

John Ambrose, who is traveling from Omaha for the Cudahy Brothers; Richard T., who assists in cultivating the home farm; Blanche Lorene; Catharine Frances, a student in the Joliet high school; and Elizabeth Agnes (Bessie) Langdon.

markets. This fell to his part of the work. When he married he became the owner of the major part of the homestead, which has since been acquired by him in full. He built a home of his own, when married, near his father's place. He is still in active life, carrying on his work on the farm with the aid of his youngest son, now just grown to manhood. In late years he moved to an adjoining farm which he had purchased. He has never aspired to public work, although he assumed his just share of the work in township offices. He has adhered to the Republican party in politics.

His wife was Sarah Mast, daughter of German parents, who came to this country in the same year, 1847. She is a woman of domestic habits and strong character, which has impressed itself upon the children. The large family has none not honored by neighbors and friends for integrity and industry.

Ten children were born of their union, namely: Francis, a farmer, living one mile from the old homestead; Daniel, at home; Julius, who died in childhood; Carl B., a business man of Minneapolis; George, who operates the original homestead of his grandfather; Edward, who farms an adjoining place; August; Amelia, wife of William Cleveland, of Frankfort Township; Ida, who keeps house for her brother George; and Albert, who is with his father.

The education of August Maue was commenced in district and continued in village schools. The fund of knowledge thus acquired was supplemented by a course of study in the Adrian Normal College, from which he graduated in 1885. He taught for a year at Goodenow and then became principal of the Monee school, being at the time the youngest principal in the entire county. Feeling the need of even broader knowledge than he had hitherto acquired, he entered the University of Illinois at Champaign, where he took a course of belles-lettres, graduating in 1891 with the degree of B. L. Having decided to follow the occupation of a teacher he accepted the principalship of the Elwood schools, and a year later took charge of the Mokena school. He resigned this position after one

**A**UGUST MAUE, principal of the Eastern avenue public school, is one of the successful teachers of Joliet. He represents the third generation of his family resident in Will County and was himself born here, at Mokena, in 1866. His grandfather, Francis Maue, a native of Bavaria, Germany, grew to manhood at his native place on the banks of the Rhine. In addition to farming he learned the tailor's trade. About twenty years after his marriage he decided to seek a home in the United States. Accompanied by his family, in 1847 he set sail for the new world. After a voyage of twenty-one days, which was considered remarkably short for the time, he reached New York. Thence he proceeded up the Hudson River and along the Erie canal to Buffalo, and from there via the lakes to Chicago, from which point he drove into the country, looking for a good location. Finding the farm land in this county fertile, he settled in Frankfort Township and took up one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he began to improve and cultivate. Besides farm pursuits, he followed his trade, working at Mokena.

Through his excellent management he was able to spend his last years in ease, having given his children a good start in life. He died at the age of seventy-six years on the old homestead at Mokena. His wife survived him seventeen years, departing this life at the age of eighty-seven.

When the family came to this county the only son, Daniel, was a boy of sixteen years. The succeeding years were busy ones for him, because much of the business devolved upon him. In those days the absence of railroads made it necessary to do much teaming to the Chicago



term, in order to accept the principalship of the Broadway school in Joliet, and since then he has been connected with educational work in this city. In his present position he has fifteen teachers under him. His work is so systematized that he is able to discharge, carefully and well, every duty devolving upon him. As an instructor he is thorough. He has the happy art of being able to impart knowledge in such a manner as to interest and please the student, but he is not superficial; on the other hand, those under his immediate oversight are invariably well grounded in their studies. As a disciplinarian he is firm, yet kind, and many of his best friends are those who have been his pupils.

**A** CLINTON DILLMAN. Typical of the progress of Joliet in commercial lines stands the firm of Poehner & Dillman, which was organized in 1890, and has since become one of the substantial companies of the city. In the Metropolitan block, Nos. 417-19 Cass street, they occupy two floors 48x130 feet, having a basement that is used for storage and also as a shop, while the stock of hardware and stoves is kept upon the first floor. The firm has the largest trade in plumbing and hot-air and steam-heating in the city, and also takes many contracts for gas-fitting, furnishing, in their various departments, employment to thirty-five hands. Among their most important contracts were those for the Farragut school; Metropolitan block, two residences for the Sehrings, the new Central Presbyterian Church, and the residences of Col. John Lambert and Henry Piepenbrink, in all of which the systems of heating and plumbing have been modern, thorough and entirely satisfactory.

The Dillman family descends from German ancestry. Michael Dillman, a native of Pennsylvania, removed to Stark County, Ohio, and in an early day settled in Plainfield, Ill., where for a time he carried on a foundry, but later engaged in farming. His son, Lewis E., was born in

Summit County, Ohio, March 21, 1828, and learned the trade of a tanner and currier. In 1847 he drove to Illinois by wagon with A. H. Shreffler, stopping at Plainfield and selling four Hussy reapers, the first introduced into Will County. In May, 1849, he brought his father, Michael, and the other members of the family to Plainfield, and the firm of M. Dillman & Co. was soon afterward organized. Later he drove back to Ohio, where, April 4, 1851, he married Miss Maria E. Hunsberger, whom he brought back to Plainfield in his buggy. He then started a foundry and machine shop and began the manufacture of agricultural implements, this being the start of what is now the Joliet Manufacturing Company. On selling that he engaged in general merchandising for a few years and then resumed manufacturing as president of a company that, in the fall of 1862, moved the business to Joliet. The next year he brought his family to this city, where he was treasurer of the company, being associated with A. H. Shreffler and Andrew Dillman.

After a time Mr. Dillman started a barb wire business, which he sold to the Lockstitch Fence Company, becoming its treasurer, and continuing in the manufacture of the wire until a stroke of paralysis terminated his activities. He is still living in Joliet, interested in the growth and prosperity of the city, with whose history he has for so many years been identified. He has been acquainted with many of the pioneers of the county—those men to whom we are indebted for our present high standing among the counties of the state; and, indeed, his own work as a pioneer business man is of such importance as to entitle him to a high place in the gratitude of the present generation. For two terms he was alderman from the first ward. In religion he is connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church. His wife is also living, and is now (1899) sixty-seven years of age. They were the parents of three sons and one daughter who attained maturity, E. Corbin and A. Clinton, of Joliet; Milo Fred, who died here, and Mrs. Mabel Moore.

Born in Plainfield, this county, September 23, 1860, the subject of this sketch has spent all but

the first three years of his life in Joliet. He graduated from the high school, after which, at eighteen years of age, he began to learn the wire business. Three years later he became superintendent of the factory of the Lockstitch Wire Fence Company, and continued with the same firm until 1888. He then went on a tour of inspection with a view to locating, but his visit in Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa disclosed nothing desirable, and he returned home. Since 1890 he has been devoted closely to the building up of the business with which his name is identified. Though not active in public affairs he is a staunch Republican. Socially he is a member of the Union Club. He has been treasurer of the Sunday school and a member of the board of stewards in the Ottawa Street Methodist Episcopal Church, with the work of which he is intimately associated. His marriage, in this city, united him with Miss Jessie Frances Stevens, who was born in Wisconsin and educated in the Iowa State University. They and their children, Milo Stevens and Frances, reside at No. 418 Eastern avenue.

**W**ILLIAM D. B. LINN, who came to Joliet October 1, 1858, and has since been identified with the interests of this city and county, is a descendant, in the third generation, from a Revolutionary soldier, and in the second generation from William Linn, a native of Connecticut, who served as captain in the war of 1812. His father, W. D. B. Linn, Sr., was born in Berkshire County, Mass., and engaged in the marble business for years in Pittsfield, that county, where he died. He had married Melinda Decker, who was born in Hudson, N. Y., and died in Massachusetts; her father, Peter Decker, was a native of New York, of Holland-Dutch ancestry.

In a family consisting of five daughters and two sons, of whom four daughters and one son are living, the subject of this sketch was next to the oldest. He was born in Lanesboro, Berk-

shire County, Mass., March 6, 1833, and was reared in and near Pittsfield, where he attended the public school. Later he was a student in the Williamstown boarding-school, where he clerked after completing his studies. When he came to Joliet he was a total stranger to the people in this section and knew but one man in the entire county. Settling on a farm near Manhattan, he began to raise stock and general farm products. Three years later he bought a farm in Manhattan Township, a portion of which is now the site of the village of Manhattan, and for some time he gave his attention to the improvement of its one hundred and fifty acres. Until 1870 he dealt in various grades of stock, but turned his attention in that year exclusively to Holstein cattle, bringing from Massachusetts the first thoroughbred Holstein ever brought into Illinois. The animal was named "Sleswig," and was a pure Holstein, he and his breed being the only ones that were imported from Holstein, the others of the name having been imported from the north of Holland. For some years his were the only Holstein cattle in the county, and at times he had as many as thirty head.

Selling his farm in 1891, Mr. Linn removed to Joliet, where he has since made his home. In the fall of 1894 he embarked in the livery business, renting a barn 44x150 feet at Nos. 815-817 Cass street, where he has since carried on a livery and boarding-stable. He has never been active in politics, but takes an interest in the same, and votes with the Democratic party. For a time he served as township clerk of Manhattan. In 1861 he was made a Mason in Matteson Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Joliet, with which he has since been connected. His marriage united him with Miss Harriet M. Buck, who was born in Berkshire, Mass., and by whom he has a daughter, Florence. It is a fact worthy of note that he, his father and his grandfather, were each the only son in the family who attained years of maturity. He is a public-spirited citizen, and takes an interest in matters that will promote the welfare of his city and county.







May Brooke.



## JOHN Y. BROOKS.

JOHN Y. BROOKS. Those able men whose sound judgment has promoted the industrial growth of their community and whose energy has brought an enlarged prosperity to every line of human activity deservedly occupy positions of prominence among their fellow-men. A volume wherein reference is made to leading business men of Joliet should not omit mention of Mr. Brooks, whose indefatigable industry and keen discrimination have been factors in bringing success to every enterprise with which he has been identified. Few are more familiar with the wire business than he, and his management of the four mills of the American Steel & Wire Company (those located at Rockdale, and on Scott street, Meeker avenue and Bluff street) has been characterized by sound judgment and great enterprise.

Mr. Brooks was born in Syracuse, N. Y., March 14, 1863, a son of John Haverly and Olivia Almira (Green) Brooks, natives respectively of New York and Rhode Island, and descendants of ancestors from England, Holland and Ireland. He is a direct descendant of Peter Brooks, who was born in Albany, N. Y., March 4, 1733, and was of English parentage. Jonathan Brooks, the great-grandfather of our subject, was a farmer and married Maria Haverly, who was born in Normansville in 1774, a daughter of Johannes and Annatje (Adams) Haverly, natives of Holland. John H. Brooks, Sr., the grandfather of John Y. Brooks, was a contractor and became interested in the mercantile business in Syracuse, continuing as proprietor of a store until his retirement from business. He married Isa-

bella Strong, daughter of William and Jane (Morrow) Strong, natives of County Antrim, Ireland. One of the sons born of this marriage, Hon. William S. Brooks, was an early settler of Joliet and became quite prominent in political circles; he represented this district in the state senate. Another son, John H. Brooks, Jr., the father of our subject, spent his entire business life as a merchant in Syracuse and died while visiting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 20, 1891. His wife was a daughter of Oliver and Almira (Moore) Green, the latter of whom was born April 11, 1797, and died April 25, 1893.

The subject of this sketch was sixth in order of birth among the children of John H. Brooks, Jr. He received his early education in the public and high schools of Syracuse, N. Y., and afterward studied for four years in the Peekskill (N. Y.) Military Academy, from which he graduated in 1880 with the highest honors of his class. Immediately afterward he came to Joliet, where he entered the hardware store of his uncle, Hon. William S. Brooks. In 1883 he began to work in the shipping department of the Ashley Wire Company, and, being remarkably quick and capable, he soon rose. In 1886 he became secretary of the Joliet Enterprise Company, and continued in that capacity until the panic of 1893, when the business went into the receiver's hands, and he assisted the receiver in settling up affairs. Afterward, in 1894, he became connected with the Consolidated Steel and Wire Company as manager of their mill and continued as such until the company was consolidated with the American Steel and Wire Company, when he was placed in

charge of the four Joliet mills. He gives his attention very closely to business matters, and, aside from the Union Club, is not identified with any societies or fraternal organizations. In religion he is a member of the Episcopalian Church. He was married, in Joliet, to Miss Jennie Gray, daughter of John Gray, an early settler of this city. They are the parents of a daughter, born February 2, 1900.

**H**ENRY SWIVAL, who has met with gratifying success in his work as a farmer and cattle-feeder, is one of the well-known men of Florence Township. He was born in Switzerland September 9, 1834, a son of Henry and Rachael (Haefner) Swival, of whose six children the daughters remained in their native land, and the sons, David, Frederick and Henry, came to America. David is now deceased, and Frederick lives in Iroquois County, Ill. Both of the paternal and maternal ancestors represented long-established families of Canton Glarus, where the father and mother were born and reared. The former was engaged in farming and stock-raising. He died about 1847 and his wife twelve years later. Both were adherents of the Evangelical Church.

The common schools of Switzerland gave our subject all the educational advantages he ever received. In 1853 he left home and went to Liverpool, where he embarked on a sailing vessel bound for New York. After a voyage for forty-two days he arrived in this country, May 2, 1853. The next day he started for Chicago. From that city he went to Gilman, Ill., where he engaged to work for a railroad contractor on the Illinois Central Railroad for \$4 a month. During the summer of 1854 he worked under the same employer for three months on the construction of the Michigan Central Railroad at Chicago Heights. Following this he went to Greengarden, Ill., where he was employed as a farm hand. In April, 1855, he settled in Wesley Township, Will County, where he was employed on a farm

for four years. He then spent one year in Florence Township, after which he herded cattle for eight years, being in the saddle almost constantly day and night. During the first six years of this time he had charge of the cattle owned by a large cattle company, receiving at first \$50 a month, and later \$75. Afterward for two years he bought and sold cattle for a gentleman in Kankakee, being paid \$110 per month for the first five months, after which he hired to him at \$850 per year and all expenses paid.

In 1865 Mr. Swival bought one hundred and ten acres of land in Florence Township, where he now lives. March 5, 1868, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Linebarger, a native of Parke County, Ind., and a daughter of John and Nancy (Stone) Linebarger. When she was a small child her father came to Will County about 1850 and bought a large tract of land in Florence Township. In 1868 he removed from that place to Elwood and later settled in Livingston County, this state. His last years were passed in Bonfield, Kankakee County, where he died in 1885. He was an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, served as a trustee and class-leader for years, and was well known for his upright Christian life, his hospitality and his generous aid given to charitable movements.

After his marriage Mr. Swival settled down to farm pursuits on the place he had purchased three years before. In his new home his knowledge of the stock business proved most advantageous to him. He began at once to raise cattle and hogs, and during the winter months was a large feeder of cattle for the market. In time he became a heavy buyer of stock, particularly hogs. As the years passed by he came to be recognized as one of the prosperous men of the township. In 1878 he bought another tract of one hundred and ten acres, making his farm one of two hundred and twenty acres. Recently he purchased three hundred and eighty-five acres in Dickinson County, Iowa, four and one-half miles from Spirit Lake, where he plans to send a couple of his sons in the spring of 1901. He and his wife became the parents of eight children, six of whom survive, namely: John, a farmer, who married



Etta Newton and lives in Florence Township; Nellie, wife of Clarence Randolph, of Joliet; Minnie, who married Robert Ward, a farmer of Wesley Township; Ara, William and Roy, at home; and Nettie, deceased.

In national issues Mr. Swival votes the Democratic ticket, but in local matters he is independent, voting for the measures best calculated to advance his township interests and the welfare of the people. For one term he held the office of highway commissioner and for several years served as school director.

**J**EROME P. STEVENS is a member of a family that has been well known throughout this county from a very early period of its settlement. He was born in Joliet in 1854 and has always made this city his home, being now engaged in the real-estate and loan business here. His father, Henry K. Stevens, a native of Newark, N. J., born in 1811, came west in 1829, first settling in Michigan, where he engaged in the cultivation of farm land. From that state he moved to Indiana in 1832 and settled on the Wabash River. The year 1836 found him a pioneer settler of Will County, Ill., where he spent one year on a farm. In 1837 he came to Joliet and opened a tavern on North Chicago street, where the Bissell hotel is now standing. His inn was the leading and the largest hotel in the city and was known as the Waving Banner. While conducting it he began to purchase real estate and in time his property interests became so valuable that he abandoned the hotel business and turned his attention to the real-estate and loan business, which he continued very successfully for years. A man of shrewd judgment, keen intuition and quick in forming decisions, he prospered in his real-estate transactions, and bought and sold extensively. When he came to Joliet it was a small village, sparsely populated, and giving to the casual observer few indications of future prosperity; but he discerned its advan-

tages and was at once convinced that investments made here would prove profitable. Subsequent events have proved the wisdom of his judgment. After a business life covering many years he retired, dividing his property among his children, and has since made his home with his son, Jerome. His wife, who died in 1887, at the age of seventy-two years, was Mary A. Bissell, a native of Ohio. They became the parents of five children, namely: Eliza, wife of O. S. Chamberlin; Albert P. and Henry T., of Joliet; Addie, who married Dr. W. O. Cheeseman, of Chicago; and Jerome P., of Joliet.

After completing his education in the schools of Joliet, Jerome P. Stevens began to deal in real estate in Joliet. In 1891 he removed the business to Chicago, where he devoted his time to the placing of loans and the buying and selling of real estate until 1897, when he returned to Joliet. As a business man he possesses many of the traits that made his father successful, and it is safe to predict for him a busy and prosperous life, in the carrying forward of the various enterprises he has already placed upon a substantial basis. His marriage took place in Mokena, Will County, in 1891 and united him with Miss Clara Belle Jones, by whom he has two children, Mary C. and Arthur J.

**N**ATHAN BENNETT. Through his connection with the business interests of Joliet and his former prominence in local labor unions, Mr. Bennett has become well known among the people of his home city. In 1891 he started a coal, coke, wood and feed business, at the site where he has since remained, and he has built up a large trade in hard and soft coal; his yards are on Washington street, near the Michigan Central tracks. Besides his fuel business he has taken contracts for the building of sewers and water mains. In local affairs he has been deeply interested. After having served as assistant supervisor for six years, he was elected supervisor in the

spring of 1893 on the Republican ticket, and was re-elected in 1895 and 1897, meantime taking an active part in much of the important business brought before the board. In the spring of 1899 he was again elected on the Republican ticket. For three years he was highway commissioner of Joliet Township.

The Bennetts are an old family of Shropshire, England. Samuel Bennett, who was born there, became a civil engineer, and for some time held a position as engineer of water works. He and his wife, who was Margaret Ashley, both died in Shropshire. Of their eleven children five are living, three of whom are in England and one in Chicago. The oldest of those now living, Nathan, was born in Midland, England, March 18, 1845. His home town was a centre for iron manufacturing, hence he early became familiar with this work. When eleven years old he entered a wire mill and afterward worked in different departments, thus gaining a thorough knowledge of the business. In the fall of 1868 he came to America and engaged as puddler for the Bremen works in St. Louis, where he received \$7 for work that brought him only \$2.25 in his old home. In the spring of 1870 he came to Joliet, being one of the first six furnace men here. When the steel mill was built he entered it and learned the business thoroughly. For many years he worked as heater in the mill, and from 1870 to 1893 he was interested in iron work. Not only was he one of the oldest men in the business at this point, but one of the most reliable as well, and he stood high in the opinion of those most competent to judge his ability. His experience was long and varied. When he was a boy working for seventy-five cents a week he was employed in the wire mill where the wire was manufactured that was used in making the first cable ever laid, and he therefore assisted in making the first cable.

The year before leaving England Mr. Bennett married Miss Mary Ann Guy, by whom he has five children now living, viz.: Sarah A., Mrs. J. James, of Joliet; Albert Edward, who assists his father in the coal yards; Edith E., who is in her father's office; Mabel H. and Marion L. Fra-

ternally Mr. Bennett is past chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, holds membership with the Knights of the Maccabees, and has passed the various chairs in the order, Sons of St. George. In 1870 he was one of the principal organizers of the Sons of Vulcan, the first labor association formed in Joliet, and the first meeting (attended by seven members) was held one Sunday afternoon in a barn on Cass street. This was the nucleus around which centered the now large and formidable Amalgamated Association of Joliet. For six terms he acted as president of the society. Later it was merged into the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, and he continued an active worker until he resigned his position in the mill, since which he has been an honorary member. He is in sympathy with the doctrines of the Methodist denomination, and his wife and family are actively connected with the Ottawa Street Methodist Episcopal Church.

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**F**RANCIS F. STOWE, a merchant at Lockport, was born in Jamestown, N. Y., July 11, 1834, a son of Nathaniel H. and Elizabeth (Partridge) Stowe, and a descendant of John Stowe, who emigrated from England in 1634 and settled in Middlesex County, Mass. He was one of eight children, seven of whom are living. One of these, Mrs. Eliza S. Twitchell, of Boston, Mass., is an author of some note and was selected to speak concerning single tax at a congress held in connection with the World's Fair. Francis F. Stowe remained on the home farm until twenty-one years of age, although for some three years before he had been teaching school. On leaving home he went to Clayton County, Iowa, where he taught school and engaged in farming. Two years later he went to Erie County, Pa., where for ten years he was engaged in the lumber business, meantime also taught several terms of school. In April, 1869, he came to Lockport and opened a grocery, since which time he has continuously engaged in busi-



ness here. For a time he was president of the Lockport State Bank, now the Exchange Bank. He is a stockholder in the American Press Association.

Mr. Stowe married Miss Sophia F. Barnard, of Ellington, N. Y. They have three children: Frederick W., a partner with his father in the grocery business; Grace E., who married George F. Seeley, of New York City; and Wayne B., who is one of the managers and directors of the American Press Association, of New York City. Politically Mr. Stowe is a Republican. For twenty-four years he served as justice of the peace. While in Erie County, Pa., he was for three years a member of the county board of auditors. Fraternally he is connected with Lockport Lodge No. 538, A. F. & A. M., and the Independent Order of Mutual Aid.

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JOHN WILLIAMSON, formerly vice-president of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Tin and Steel Workers of America, was appointed, June 1, 1899, deputy internal revenue collector, under Hon. F. E. Coyne, for the thirteenth division of the first internal revenue district of Illinois, his territory being Kankakee County and all of Will, Grundy and LaSalle Counties lying south of the Illinois River. A resident of Joliet since December 27, 1881, he is a native of Glasgow, Scotland, born September 25, 1861, a son of John and Margaret (Chalmers) Williamson, who were born in the same city as himself. His father, who was an iron moulder by trade, died in 1869, when thirty-three years of age, leaving three children: John, who was then a boy of eight years; Elizabeth, who is married and lives in Buffalo, N. Y.; and James L., a machinist in Rochester, N. Y. The mother, who was a daughter of Hugh Chalmers, a merchant tailor of Glasgow, brought her children to America in 1872 and settled in Rochester, N. Y., where she died at fifty-one years of age.

Mr. Williamson was but eleven years of age when he became self-supporting. His early education was obtained in the public schools. After he commenced work his evenings were devoted to study. He also entered Taylor's Business College, Rochester, N. Y., from which institution he graduated in 1880. He is well read and keeps abreast with the times, and is well posted on all the live topics of the day.

His first employment was on a farm. Afterward he engaged in business on his own account, in the prosecution of which he traveled extensively in New York and northern Michigan.

In 1881 he came to Joliet, where he secured employment in the converting department of the Joliet Steel Company, now a portion of the Federal Steel Company. From a very humble position he worked his way to a place of much responsibility, being in charge of the steel ladles in this department. He continued with this company until he was appointed deputy internal revenue collector.

The whole life of Mr. Williamson is a splendid example of what pluck, honesty and energy can accomplish. Though early thrown upon his own resources, he did not sit idly by and wait for something to turn up, but while a mere boy proceeded to carve out his own future. He has risen rapidly, not only in his own chosen business, but also (and this he prizes more) in the estimation of his fellow-workmen and the citizens of Will County. He is highly respected in this community, and during all the time he was engaged at the steel mills he enjoyed the confidence of his fellow-workmen and his employers. He was always a member of the committee to settle wages or grievances. This position required great tact and a thorough knowledge of local conditions. His recommendations were invariably accepted and his advice sought on all important matters pertaining to the welfare of his fellow-workmen, as is evidenced by the fact that he was for four consecutive terms president of the Mutual Lodge No. 12, Amalgamated Association of Iron, Tin and Steel Workers, during which time he also served as deputy vice-president of the fourth district, which included Illinois, Wisconsin

sin and northern Indiana. This office he filled for five years. Later he was chosen vice-president of the same district and held this office at the time he was appointed deputy collector of internal revenue. He is still an honorary member of the association. His advice and services are still at the disposal of his associates.

Mr. Williamson is past noble grand of the Odd Fellows' Lodge, a member of the encampment, for three terms served as captain of Joliet Canton No. 52, and is an active worker in the order of Rebekahs. He is an active Mason and a member of Joliet Chapter. He has always been active in politics and considers it a part and parcel of good citizenship to properly attend to such matters. He is a staunch Republican, and although giving willing support to his party, he steadily refused office until 1897 and 1898, when he was elected assistant supervisor of Joliet. His services and ability were recognized by appointment as deputy internal revenue collector. This position was tendered him without solicitation on his part and was finally accepted. This position is very responsible, requiring tact, good judgment and business ability, as it brings him in contact with the different commercial interests of Illinois and all classes of people. His friends say he is eminently fitted for this work and predict a rapid rise and a bright future for him.

Mr. Williamson was married, February 12, 1885, to Miss Sarah Hewlett, of Joliet. The couple have two sons, John Raymond and Elmer Harold. They now reside at their home, No. 913 Benton street, Joliet.

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**EDWARD ETHERIDGE.** After twenty years with the Illinois Steel Company as foreman in charge of bricklaying, during which time he won and retained the confidence of the officers of the company and made an enviable record for efficiency, Mr. Etheridge in 1897 resigned his position in order to engage in contracting, an occupation that he had followed years

before with success. During his early connection with this business he built the Centennial block, Mr. Fortune's home, the McIntyre residence in Wilmington, the old post-office (now the First National Bank building,) and many other substantial blocks and houses. Since resuming work as a contractor he has had the contracts for the Boston store, and the buildings owned by Anderson & Flint, Cudahy Packing Company and the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company.

Mr. Etheridge was born in Worcestershire, England, December 6, 1847, a son of James and Leah (Shelvock) Etheridge. His grandfather, Joseph Etheridge, engaged in the manufacture of nails in the days when they were made by hand; he died when almost eighty years of age. The maternal grandfather, Thomas Shelvock, was a brewer of stout ale. James Etheridge, who was a bricklayer, died at sixty-three years, and his wife was also about the same age at the time of her death. Of their twenty-two children, nine attained mature years, and eight are living, three sons, Eli, Felix and Edward, being in Joliet. Another son, William, who was also a resident of this city, was accidentally killed by falling from a buggy. One of the daughters, Fannie, resides in Joliet; another, Mrs. Amelia Phellis, makes her home in Toronto, Canada; and the third, Mrs. Mary Ann Ward, is in England, while a son, Arthur, also lives in the mother country.

When only seven years of age our subject began to work at the nailer's trade with an uncle, remaining with him for six months and being paid only two cents per week. His next work was in a gun barrel plant, after which he worked with his father in the brick-laying trade, continuing with him from the time he was thirteen until he was eighteen. The next year he spent in Birmingham, England. After his marriage to Miss Eliza Sawyer, which took place in Holesowen, August 20, 1866, he worked at his trade in Staffordshire. In 1869 he went to North Lancashire, and continued there until 1872, when he came to the United States. March 13, 1872, he took passage from Liverpool on a steamer that



crossed to Portland, Me., from which point he proceeded to Chicago, arriving there April 1, and coming on to Joliet June 14. Here he worked as a bricklayer with the Joliet Steel Company until 1874, after which he was in the Braddock steel works of Pittsburg, Pa., and next assisted in the construction of the blast furnaces of the James Green iron works in St. Louis, Mo. Returning to Joliet, he engaged in contracting and building. In 1877 he became a bricklayer, and later foreman with the Illinois Steel Company, remaining in this position until he embarked in contracting. In national politics he votes the Republican ticket. At one time he was identified with the Knights of Pythias and now holds connection with the Sons of St. George. In religious views he is a Methodist, belonging to the Irving Street Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Eliza Etheridge is a daughter of Zachariah and Sarah (Hacket) Sawyer, of whose five children Mary is in England; Henry, Thomas and Emma reside in Chicago. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Etheridge has been blessed by four children, namely: George, a bricklayer, who since 1897 has been a member of the firm of Etheridge & Sons; James, who is also a member of the firm; Mrs. Sarah Shelback, of Chicago, and Mrs. Martha Sunbaum, of Joliet.

daughters, namely: Julia, Mrs. K. J. Hammond, of St. Paul, Minn.; Albert W. and Arthur R. (twins); Eliza S., wife of W. C. Goodhue, of Chicago; C. R., whose home is in Redlands, Cal.; and Tinnie H., wife of R. H. Terhune, of Salt Lake City, Utah. Our subject's twin brother, who was for some years engaged in the wholesale grocery business in Chicago, afterward went to San Francisco, where he carried on a large trade in wholesale groceries and fruits; he is now living retired.

Colonel Briggs was born in Painesville, Ohio, March 21, 1839. He was thirteen years of age when the family settled in this county, and his education was afterward carried on in the Plainfield public school and academy and the Blue Island schools. In 1859 he went to California via New York and the Isthmus of Panama. From San Francisco he proceeded to the mountains at Shasta, thence to Virginia City, where he engaged in silver mining. While he was in Nevada he was commissioned by James W. Nye lieutenant-colonel of the First Nevada Regiment, which was raised by Charles A. Sumner, a nephew of Charles Sumner. His regiment was assigned to duty on the great plains between Utah and California, where they had many skirmishes with the Indians, and rendered faithful service under the leadership of Colonel Sumner and Lieutenant-Colonel Briggs. After two years in the army the latter resigned his commission in order to return east. While he was on the homeward voyage, at Panama, he learned of the assassination of President Lincoln.

Upon his return to Joliet, in 1865, Colonel Briggs opened a drug store on Jefferson street, opposite the court house. When the country around Manistee, Mich., began to open up he removed the drug business to that town and for a few years conducted it there. Later he became interested in the manufacture of lumber as a member of the firm of Green, Briggs & Co. For three years he met with success, but the disastrous fire in the town caused a heavy loss. Returning to Joliet he carried on a grain business with H. S. Carpenter for several years. Next he became a member of the grain firm of W. S.

**C**OL. ALBERT W. BRIGGS, who has been a resident of this county during much of the time since 1852, is descended from a colonial family of Massachusetts. His father, Charles W., son of Richard Briggs, was born on a farm near Rutland, Vt., and in early life learned the trade of a carriage-maker, which he followed in Painesville, Ohio. In 1852 he brought his family to Illinois and settled on a farm near Plainfield, but later removed to Chicago and lived there in retirement until his death in 1886. He married Julia A. Jones, who was born in Rutland County, Vt., and died in Will County, Ill. They were the parents of three sons and three

Johnson & Co., in Chicago, operators of elevators of the Northern Iowa division of the North-Western Railroad. In 1891 he retired from that firm and accepted a position as assistant immigration agent for the Southern Pacific Railroad, a position that obliged him to travel throughout the entire country. After three years as agent he resigned in 1894 and has since acted as manager of Lambert & Cochrane's real-estate business in Joliet. He has laid out three subdivisions in the northeastern part of the city and one in the southwest part, and has also made building improvements on the property. In politics he is a Republican, but not active.

The marriage of Colonel Briggs united him with Miss Rose Cagwin, who was born in Joliet, daughter of Abijah Cagwin, deceased, of this city. They are the parents of two children. Their son, Arthur A., a graduate of a Chicago high school, has for fourteen years been connected with the First National Bank of Chicago. The daughter, Julia H., who has a soprano voice of unusual sweetness and power, is prominent in the best society in Joliet.

**A**MOS EIB. As a representative of a pioneer family of this county Mr. Eib is well known in Jackson Township. He was born in Harrison County, W. Va., July 29, 1823. He was ten years old when the family settled in Illinois and he has ever since been identified with the farming interests of Will County. His first purchase consisted of eighty acres of canal land, the present site of his home. In 1862 he bought an additional one hundred acres, which he still owns. Later he added more land, but of recent years has sold it, retaining only his tract of one hundred and eighty acres. Politically he is a Democrat. He has been interested in educational matters and served for twelve years as a member of the school board.

March 28, 1851, Mr. Eib married Miss Catherine Gouter, who was born April 7, 1834, in Alsace, France. She was one of the five

children of Michael and Catherine (Arnholdt) Gouter, and has one brother and one sister now living, viz.: Michael, of Russell County, Kans.; and Susan, wife of William Brown, of this county. In 1840 Mr. Gouter brought his family to the United States and settled three miles south of Joliet. After a few years he purchased land in Jackson Township and there remained until his death. The five children of Mr. and Mrs. Eib are named as follows: Levi H., who is engaged in the insurance and real-estate business in Joliet; George W., a wheat grower in Colusa County, Cal.; Albert M., a farmer in Will County; Clara E., who married Albert Cotton, of Kankakee, Ill.; and Susan, wife of Alvin Spangler, of Jackson Township, this county.

**J**OHN A. HATCH, general merchant and grain dealer at Mokena, Frankfort Township, was born in 1842 near his present place of residence. His father, John Hatch, who was born in England in 1816 and came to America in 1835, settled in Chicago and thence came to Will County, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres from the government at \$1.25 an acre. In 1869 he moved from here to Linn County, Mo., and purchased a farm, where he has since made his home. He is a Republican and for several years served as road master. His wife was born in Scotland and died in Missouri in 1893, aged eighty-two, leaving seven children: Eliza, John A., William, Charlotte, Edwin, Mary, and Charles (now deceased).

In 1869 our subject went to Missouri with his parents, where he was afterward variously employed until his return to Mokena in 1876. Here he was first employed in a mercantile store. Afterward he purchased the store and goods and has since carried on business for himself. Besides general merchandising, he deals in grain, feed, coal, tile, etc., and operates a feed mill and grain elevator. For several years he served as justice of the peace and school director. In 1862 he enlisted in Company B, Seventy-second Illinois Infantry, as a private. Later he was appointed a lieutenant



in Company E, Forty-seventh United States Colored Infantry, attached to the department of the gulf, under General Canby. He took part in various engagements of the war, some of them being among the fiercest battles of the four years, but he was not once wounded or imprisoned. He is now a member of U. S. Grant Post, G. A. R., in Chicago. In 1866 he married Nancy M., daughter of Ozias McGovney, of Mokena. They have eight children: Jane, wife of Henry Stellwagen; Nannie E., wife of Samuel J. Fulton; John O., Grace E., Etta O., Elbert R., Lois V. and Alfred C.

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**J**OHAN FAHRNER, M. D., who has been engaged in the general practice of medicine in Joliet since 1882, is a descendant of an old German family, and was born in Marienbad, Bohemia, Austria, February 11, 1854, a son of Dr. Valentine and Mary A. (Tauber) Fahrner, natives of the same country. His father received excellent advantages in his native land, and after graduating from the University of Prague with the degree of M. D., he engaged in practice in Marienbad. From there, in 1854, he came to the United States, establishing an office in Chicago, where he made his home until 1868. After a year in Europe, in 1869 he settled in Mokena Township, this county, and two years later came to Joliet, where he built up a general practice. He died in this city in July, 1879, when seventy-five years of age. His wife preceded him in death some years, passing away in Joliet May 28, 1873. They were the parents of one son and two daughters, but one of the daughters died at twelve years of age; the other, Mrs. Catharine Lehner, makes her home in Joliet Township. The earliest recollections of the subject of this sketch are associated with Chicago, which he remembers as a small city, widely differing from the present metropolis. His primary education was obtained in parochial schools, after which he took a classical course in St. Joseph's College. In 1868 he returned to Europe

with his parents, and a year later settled with them in this county. Under his father's instructions he gained his first knowledge of the medical science, with whom he studied and whom he also assisted in practice for a number of years. Possessing a talent for the profession and a genuine love for it, he readily acquired a knowledge of its intricacies. In 1879 he matriculated in Bennett Medical College of Chicago, from which he graduated in 1882, after a three years' course. Returning to his home county he opened an office in Joliet, and has since established a large and growing office practice. He has his office on the corner of Center and Oneida streets. Movements relating to the profession receive his attention and assistance, and he is actively connected with the Illinois Eclectic Medical Society. In national politics he supports Democratic principles, but in local affairs believes in supporting the men best calculated to represent the people. When he finds enterprises are calculated to promote the prosperity of the city he gives them his unqualified support. He is connected with St. John's Roman Catholic Church and St. Aloysius Branch No. 21, of the Western Catholic Union.

December 28, 1875, in Joliet, Dr. Fahrner and Miss Magdalena Kachelhoffer were united in marriage. Mrs. Fahrner was born in this city, to which her father, F. N. Kachelhoffer, came in an early day from Alsace and engaged in the mercantile business here. The doctor's children are John, Pius, Angela, Walter, Alphonse, Charlotte, Frederick, Esther, Arthur, Julius and Elsie.

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**T**HOMAS DIXON. Prominent among the successful farmers of Florence Township may be mentioned Mr. Dixon, who, after years of active and arduous labor, has retired from farming cares and is passing his declining days quietly at his home in the suburbs of Symerton. For years he has occupied a position of influence in the affairs of his community. Al-

though he has refused all public offices except one, he has nevertheless been foremost in movements for the public good and has won the esteem of his associates. For eighteen years he served as road commissioner, and during that time became recognized as a steadfast champion of good roads.

Of English birth and parentage, Mr. Dixon was born in Nottinghamshire, February 19, 1826, a son of John and Hannah (Dickerson) Dixon, who lived and died in England, the former being almost ninety at the time of his death. In the family there were seven children, viz.: Sarah, who is in England; Thomas; John, of Wilnington, this county; William, deceased; Ann, who is the wife of William Connors; George, of Symerton; and Hannah, who remains in England. When a boy our subject had no chance to attend school, for, the family being poor, he was obliged to support himself from an early age. He worked as a day laborer until twenty-eight years of age, when, in 1858, he came to America, accompanied by his sister Anna, sailing from Liverpool May 2 on the sailer "Excelsior," and landing in New York June 14. From New York he proceeded direct to Chicago and thence to Lockport, where he met some English acquaintances. For five years he worked on the old John Lane farm in Homer Township, where the first steel plow was made. Next he rented a farm in Felix Township, Grundy County, and this he operated for four years. Returning to Will County in 1869, he bought one hundred and eighty-five acres in Florence Township, and at once began the task of clearing, improving and cultivating a farm. He became especially interested in stock-raising, and made a specialty of Durham cattle and Clydesdale horses, dealing exclusively in fine stock. In 1891 he rented the farm to a son and built a new house on his land near the village. His life is an example of what may be accomplished when the spirit of determination is exercised in connection with the everyday affairs of existence. His farming operations have resulted satisfactorily, and he is now in a position to enjoy the comforts of life in his declining years. While he is not active in politics, he is a pronounced

Democrat, strongly in sympathy with his party. His wife is a member of the German Evangelical Church, in which he has been treasurer of the Sunday-school.

Miss Mary Ann Taylor, who became Mr. Dixon's wife in 1852, was born in the same shire as himself and was a friend of his in their childhood days. They are the parents of eight children, seven now living, as follows: Harriet, wife of William Blood; Joseph, who makes his home in Joliet; Fannie, wife of Timothy Badgley, of Chicago; Sarah, Mrs. John Singleton; Thomas, who superintends the old homestead; John, living in Iowa; and Rosie, who is the wife of Frederick Behrn, of Joliet.

JAMES W. LOVE, who is engaged in jobbing and repairing, and in the manufacture of store and office fixtures, is one of the reliable business men of Joliet, and has a shop at No. 212 North Ottawa street that is provided with electric power and other modern improvements. His grandfather, Thomas Love, was gamekeeper on the estate of a nobleman near London. For many years he was an officer in the English army, much of his service being in Canada, where he finally retired to private life, engaging in farming and stock-raising in Ontario County, Ontario. Among the offices which he held were those of magistrate and township supervisor. In religion he was a member of the Church of England.

The father of our subject, James Love, was born near London, England, and for years carried on a farm near Seaforth, Huron County, Ontario, but later succeeded to the ownership of the homestead near Greenbank. He was a member of the Canadian Presbyterian Church and a man of upright Christian character. Our subject, James W. Love, was born in Whitby, Canada, March 17, 1855, and was reared on his grandfather's farm, which he assisted in clearing and improving. At seventeen years of age he began to learn the carpenter's trade, being with



the same employer for five years. In the fall of 1877 he came to the States and settled in Joliet, Ill., where he was employed by Mr. Burlingame for three years and by Mr. Van Fleet for six years. Later he was in charge of a gang of laborers in the bridge department of the Chicago & Rock Island Railroad. In 1894 he began jobbing, opening a shop in the old Republican Sun building near the river. Two years later he moved to North Joliet street, and after a year located at his present place.

Fraternally Mr. Love is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in religion he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Republican party has always received his support since he came to the United States, and, while not desiring political offices, he has been willing to aid his party by serving on committees and as a delegate to conventions, etc. In Seaforth, Ontario, March 24, 1885, he was united in marriage with Miss Essie Ward, of Canada, by whom he has one son, Harry Ward Love.

**J**OSEPH ROSE. The farmers of this county have a good representative in Mr. Rose, who for years diligently and successfully cultivated a farm in Manhattan Township, but who since 1891 has been living retired from active cares and in the enjoyment of the comforts earned by his former industry, is quietly passing the twilight of his life in Manhattan. The period of his connection with the history of this county covers a half century. It was on the 19th of June, 1850, that he arrived in Lockport, a stranger in a strange land, with whose customs and people he was wholly unfamiliar. He was without means and was glad to secure work at fifty cents a day and his board. In the years that have since come and gone he has labored to such good purpose that he now owns two hundred and forty acres of improved land besides his property in town.

A son of John and Sarah (Whitely) Rose, the

subject of this sketch was born in Nottinghamshire, England, March 1, 1825. He was reared on a farm and remained in the vicinity of his birthplace until he crossed the ocean to the United States. After a voyage of nearly six weeks from Liverpool on the good sailing ship "Manhattan," Captain Mulligan, he arrived in New York City, where he spent a few days. He then proceeded to Albany and from there pursued his way to Chicago, at that time an insignificant village in the midst of a dense swamp. From Chicago he came via canal boat to Lockport, where he secured employment. Later, for three years, he worked on a farm for D. C. Young, and while in his employ he helped to clear up the land now occupied by Oakwood cemetery.

Renting a tract of eighty acres, Mr. Rose began independent farming. He spent four years on the same place, and in 1858 removed to Manhattan Township, where he operated a rented farm for six years, and in 1864 bought a farm in Wilton Township, between Peotone and Wilton. Upon the one hundred and sixty acres comprising the farm he engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He later bought eighty acres of land west of Wilton Center. He remained on his farm until his removal to Manhattan in 1891. He has never cared for office and, aside from voting the Republican ticket, takes no part in politics. In 1846 he married Miss Mary Hallam, a native of England. They are the parents of the following-named children: Charles, James P., Robert H., Elizabeth, Mary J. and Harriet S. Of these Charles is in Los Angeles, Cal.

**E**PHRAIM L. SHAFFNER. The business interests of Joliet have an energetic representative in Mr. Shaffner, who for years has been the owner and manager of a coal yard in this city. Forming a partnership with his father, under the firm name of B. Shaffner & Son, in 1876 he embarked in the coal business. Eight

years later the partnership was dissolved, he assuming full control of the business, which he has since enlarged to its present magnitude. His yard is conveniently located near the tracks of the Chicago & Alton, Illinois Central and Santa Fe Railroads. He is a man of excellent business ability and sound judgment, and has attained a success of which he is eminently deserving.

In 1846 John Shaffner came to this county and took up government land, on which he engaged in farming. His son, Benjamin, was born in Cumberland County, Pa., in 1825. The next year the family removed to Summit County, Ohio, and he was twenty-one years of age at the time of the removal to Illinois, the family settling in New Lenox Township, this county. Later he acquired a farm in Jackson Township, where he remained until 1857. On selling that place he removed to Joliet and began working at the carpenter's trade, but after a time became interested in wagon-making, also carried on a grocery and provision business, and finally opened a coal yard. About 1884 he retired from active business cares, and has since lived in the enjoyment of an income sufficient for his needs, occupying a comfortable home in this city. In politics he is a Republican.

By the marriage of Benjamin Shaffner to Caroline Larkin, of this county, two children were born, E. L. and E. P., both of Joliet. The former was born in New Lenox Township, October 1, 1852, and received a common-school education. At fifteen years of age he secured employment with the Joliet Iron & Steel Company as an office boy. Gaining the confidence of his employers, he was promoted from one position to another until he was finally given charge of the pay rolls, and he continued with the company until he resigned to engage in the coal business.

June 21, 1877, Mr. Shaffner married Miss Frances A. Stanley, who was born in Joliet June 10, 1855. Her father, Francis G. Stanley, was for twenty-seven years foreman of the William Adams Lumber Company, continuing in the position until the time of his death. Mrs. Shaffner died May 12, 1885, leaving four children. The eldest, Edwin Stanley, who was born May 29,

1878, is assisting his father in business. Frances M., born December 7, 1880, is a graduate of the Joliet high school, and resides at home. Lottie A. died at five years; and Benjamin F., born January 8, 1885, is with his father. The second marriage of Mr. Shaffner took place May 18, 1886, and united him with Miss Martha J. George, who was born in Bucyrus, Crawford County, Ohio, a daughter of John and Susan (Stichler) George. Her father came from Ohio to Will County in an early day and after a residence here of several years returned to Ohio, where he resided until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Shaffner are the parents of a daughter, Clara Belle, born June 9, 1889.

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ALEXANDER DAVIDSON, proprietor of a livery on South Bluff street, Joliet, was born in Scranton, Pa., June 9, 1870, a son of Francis P. and Elizabeth (McNeal) Davidson, who were born, reared and married in Scotland. His father, who followed the machinist's trade in Scotland for some years, after coming to America became master mechanic in the steel mills at Scranton. In 1873 he removed to St. Louis, where he held a position as master mechanic in the Vulcan iron works at Carondelet. His next location was in Crystal City, as master mechanic in the plate glass works there. In 1880 he went to Chicago and became superintendent of the Morton Frog & Crossing works, having charge of the building and fitting up of the new plant. Coming to Joliet in 1890, he accepted a position as manager of the Fox Pressed Steel Company (now the Pressed Steel Car Company). This plant he fitted with machinery and put in running order. In 1892 he went to Montana as superintendent of the mechanical part of the noted Anaconda mines. Since 1898 he has been retired from business cares and has made his home in Joliet, where he stands high in the estimation of the people as a reliable citizen. Among those in his line he has always held a high rank,



and during his active years he was considered one of the most skilled mechanics in America. Reared under the influences of the Scotch Presbyterian Church, he has always adhered to its doctrines and endeavored to live up to its teachings.

The education of our subject was acquired principally in South Chicago. When a mere boy he was apprenticed to the moulder's trade, serving his time with Fraser & Chalmers, and working in Chicago. When his father went to Anaconda he accompanied him, but after a stay of three months returned to Chicago. However, in 1893 he again went to Montana, this time remaining until June, 1895, when he settled in Joliet. His connection with the Bates Machine Company began shortly after he settled in this city and continued until March, 1899. He then bought out the business he now successfully conducts. Everything about his barns is first-class. His carriages are all rubber-tired and modern in every particular. He owns ten horses of high grade and also has a number of boarders in his stables. He gives his attention very closely to his business, desiring in every particular to please his customers and to conduct affairs in a manner satisfactory to patrons and profitable to himself. Politically he has not allied himself with any political party, but is independent in his vote.

with many important movements for the development of New England, and the family name was a synonym of honesty and uprightness. His son, Thomas, came to America in 1637; his name is mentioned in the early history of Massachusetts, and he was one of the surgeons that went out with the army against the Pequod Indians.

Capt. Josiah, son of Dr. Thomas Starr, was born at Chestertown, Mass., September 1, 1657, and became the founder of the branch of the family in Danbury, Conn. He was elected the first town clerk, captain of the first military company there, and also held the offices of justice of the peace and surveyor. In 1702 he was chosen deputy to the general court, a position of great distinction. This office he held, by re-election, during the remaining years of his life. He had a grandson who bore the same name as himself and who was born in 1717. He was a member of what was then known as the train-band. In 1754 he was chosen ensign of his company. In August, 1755, he was chosen second lieutenant of the Fifth Company to go against Crown Point. In 1756 he was commissioned lieutenant-colonel. His father also served as an ensign and captain and as deputy to the general court and was prominent in church affairs.

Abijah, son of Colonel Starr, was born in Danbury, Conn., about 1744, and removed thence to Patterson, Putnam County, N. Y. His son, Abijah, a native of Patterson, settled in Ithaca about 1816, and afterward followed surveying. By his marriage to Hanna Watts he had three children, of whom the eldest, William Russell Starr, was born in Patterson August 4, 1807, and engaged in the mercantile business there. In 1834 he came to Illinois and took up some land near Crete, where he engaged in farming. He was a staunch Whig and Abolitionist. For some years he was postmaster at Crete. He took an active part in the organization of the Congregational Church of Crete. November 18, 1829, he married Harriet L. Royce, daughter of Asahel and Sally (Clark) Royce. He died February 10, 1857.

The subject of this sketch was their only son. He was two years of age when they brought him

**A**BIJAH R. STARR, former proprietor of the Stone City greenhouses at No. 110 Macomber avenue, made his home in Joliet from 1871 until his death in 1899. He was born in Ithaca, N. Y., March 25, 1832, a son of William Russell Starr. The common ancestor of all branches of the Starr family in America was Dr. Comfort Starr, a native of Ashford, Kent County, England, and a prominent surgeon and owner of large estates. This ancestor settled in Massachusetts in 1635 and afterward made his home there. He was a warden in St. Mary's Church at Ashford, Kent County, England. Both he and his descendants were prominently identified

to this county, coming via the lakes on one of the earliest steamers, "Uncle Sam," that made the voyage. When a boy he attended school held in a log building put up by the pioneers, and containing openings for windows and doors; afterward doors and windows were made of what was known as shake boards, split out of logs. In 1850 he went to California, driving across the plains with a large party. The journey was a perilous one, owing to the hostility of the Indians. At night and day guards were on the alert to protect the travelers against possible attacks, but they were not molested. As a miner he had fair success. After two years he returned to Illinois, on account of his father's illness, and resumed the management of the home farm. Four years later his father died and the farm was sold to our subject's uncle. Our subject then went to Wheaton, Dupage County, where for eight years he engaged in the mercantile business.

In March, 1871, Mr. Starr sold out in Wheaton and came to Joliet, where he and his wife started a store at No. 69 Jefferson street, which they carried on for five years. The management of the store was almost wholly in his wife's hands, and she displayed excellent judgment in superintending it. Meantime he had started a greenhouse on Macomber avenue, which was the first one started in Joliet. In 1878 he and his wife disposed of their stock of goods and turned their attention wholly to the florist's business. They rebuilt their residence and erected another house on an adjoining lot. In the greenhouses there are five thousand feet of glass. The accommodations are ample for the care of a large variety of plants, two of the houses being 20x50, while two others are 20x70.

Mr. Starr was a stockholder in the first building and loan association organized in Joliet. As a Republican, he was fairly active in politics and attended numerous conventions. In religion he was a Methodist. During his residence in Wheaton he was made a Mason, and after coming to Joliet he joined Matteson Lodge, A. F. & A. M., in which he held positions of trust.

October 24, 1853, Mr. Starr married Sarah Ann, daughter of Jared and Lana (Young)

Mogg, and a native of Clay, N. Y. Her grandfather, Jeremiah Young, was a Revolutionary soldier and traced his ancestry to Germany, his great-grandfather having come to this country from that land. Many of the name still reside in Schoharie and Onondaga Counties, N. Y., where the original emigrants settled. Her father was born in Connecticut in 1791, and was orphaned by the death of his parents when he was a small boy. He was bound out and in boyhood was compelled to work very hard, with no advantages or opportunities. While he was still very young, the treatment he received caused him to run away from his master. He secured work on a farm and was employed as a hand until he had saved enough to start out for himself. After his marriage he bought a farm in Onondaga County. After a time he bought another farm and also ran a sawmill in Oswego County. A strong Jackson Democrat, he took an active part in politics. He was a very upright, honorable and industrious man, one who had many friends in his community. In his family there were fourteen children, all but one of whom attained maturity, and ten are still living, the youngest of these being fifty-seven years old, it being the oldest and largest (taken altogether) of any family now living that was born in Onondaga County. Mr. and Mrs. Starr became the parents of three daughters, namely: Mary, wife of A. C. Johnston, of Joliet; Ellen, a physician and the wife of Dr. C. H. L. Souder, of Chicago; and Attie Cordelia, wife of George T. Relyea, a wholesale grocer, of Joliet.

At his home, surrounded by his family, Mr. Starr departed this life December 18, 1899, aged sixty-seven years, nine months and eighteen days. Throughout life he was noted for his sterling honesty and positive convictions, and was respected by all his acquaintances for his love of truth and right and his bitter hatred of dishonesty and corruption, either in public or private affairs. He was always kind and generous in his family and with his neighbors. His genial and sympathetic nature led him to perform many acts of kindness and charity toward the poor or the distressed in his neighborhood. Of his char-



acter and life it may truthfully be said that they always stood for the right because it was right and not for policy's sake. He admired and championed the cause of truth and justice, and he boldly denounced wrong. In every good cause he was a supporter. He did much, by example and precept, to lead the community in paths of justice, loyalty and honor.

**C**HARLES W. KEITH, foreman of the Joliet plant of Selz, Schwab & Co., is descended from Scotch ancestry, but his forefathers have been in America since 1661. During that year, Rev. James, son of Robert Keith, came to the new world from the county of Caithness, in the northern part of Scotland. From him descend all of the Keiths of New England. He was educated in Marshall College, Aberdeen, and came to America immediately after completing his college course. He was called to be the first minister at Duxbury, Mass. His son, Simeon, was born in Mendon, May 6, 1742, and was orphaned at an early age; learning the blacksmith's trade, he started out for himself when eighteen years of age. Upon the breaking out of the Revolutionary war he enlisted in a company of volunteers under Captain Wilkinson, of Sutton. He marched with the company to Roxbury, but there, through the exposure of camp life, caught a severe cold resulting in fever, from which he died January 3, 1776. Though he did not live to see the independence of our country, his name deserves to be perpetuated among those of other patriots who gave their lives for their native land. By his marriage to Rebecca Leland he had five children, of whom the second, Royal, was the grandfather of our subject.

Royal Keith was born February 23, 1769, and was seven years of age when his father died. The care of the family then fell upon the mother, who, in spite of the hardships of war, the privations of poverty and the sorrows of widowhood, managed to keep the children together and reared

them to become useful, honorable citizens. As soon as he was old enough to earn money Royal helped to support the family. He learned the shoemaker's trade with his uncle, Elijah Stanton. In 1788 he went to Boston, where he found employment in a shoe store occupying a room in Faneuil hall. Two years later he returned to the family home at Grafton, where he soon began to manufacture shoes on his own account, selling in Boston and Providence. He was one of the earliest manufacturers of custom shoes in America, having begun in business soon after the first tariff was passed for the protection of American industries. The first shoes he manufactured were rough hand-sewed articles, which were used by laboring men or shipped south for the Carolina negroes. After a time these shoes were supplanted by others more modern in style and shape. During the embargo of the war of 1812, transportation by water was impossible, and Mr. Keith sent a shipment of shoes overland from Grafton to Richmond, Va., which was a very difficult task in those days. He was a citizen highly esteemed for his worthy qualities. Possessing excellent business qualities he always succeeded in business enterprises. Often he was appealed to by his neighbors for advice in weighty matters. He was frequently chosen to serve in official capacities, and in 1836 was the representative from Grafton in the general court of Massachusetts. He died November 13, 1857, after a long and successful life.

By the marriage of Royal Keith to Deborah Adams, which was solemnized December 26, 1797, ten children were born, of whom Royal A., the sixth, was born December 27, 1809. He was a farmer by occupation, although he also engaged in the meat business for some years. In religion he was a Congregationalist. He was a man of quiet, unassuming disposition, who, like his father, was respected wherever known. He attained an advanced age, and passed from earth August 29, 1882. By his marriage, September 2, 1840, to Lydia D. Fisher, eight children were born, Charles being the fifth. The last-named was born at Grafton, Mass., April 19, 1849, and was educated in common schools. In youth he

became familiar with the shoe business. About 1865 he went to Worcester, but a year later returned to Grafton, and for six years was with J. W. Slocum & Son. Next he went to Upton, where he was similarly employed for two years. For five years he was in the employ of C. A. Claflin, of Hopkinton, Mass. Later he was with J. H. and G. M. Walker at Worcester until 1883, when he came to Joliet upon the recommendation of Mr. Claflin, who was at the time assistant superintendent for Selz, Schwab & Co., in this city. For a part of the first year he was assistant to the foreman, after which he was appointed foreman, and has held this position since, notwithstanding the different administrations of affairs. After the first year he took the place of two foremen, having charge of from seventy to eighty men.

In politics Mr. Keith is a believer in Republican principles, but in local affairs believes it is more a question of the right man than of political principles, hence he supports the men he considers best qualified to represent the people. January 28, 1880, he married Carrie A., daughter of Lovett B. Hayden, who was engaged in the boot and shoe business in Hopkinton, Mass. They are the parents of four children: Carrie Ethel, Royal Adams, Nina Hayden and Robert Elwin.

**H**ENRY CHRISTMANN, who is proprietor of a meat market at No. 623 South Chicago street, Joliet, was born in Bavaria, Germany, October 14, 1865. He was the third among eight children, six of whom are now living. His father, Christopher Christmann, was for twenty-five years engaged in the mercantile business in Bavaria, but in 1880 left Germany and

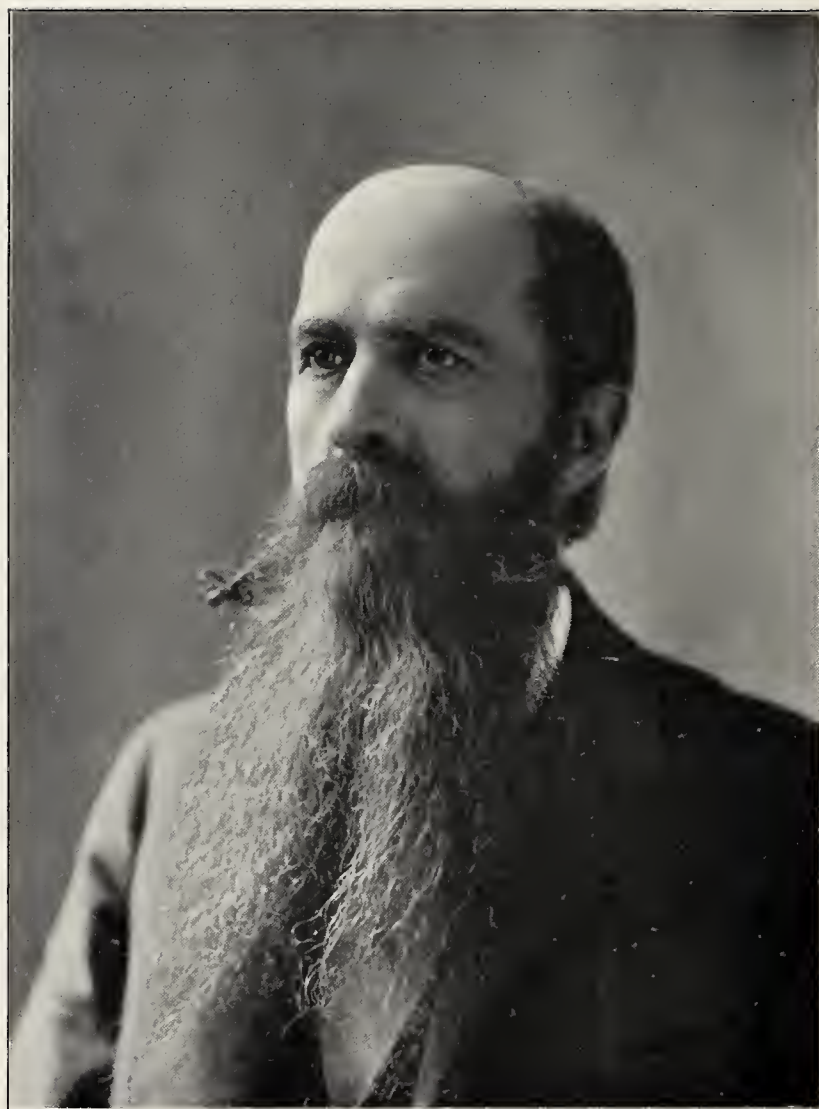
emigrated to America, settling in Joliet, where he is now living, retired from business cares. Since identifying himself with our government he has been a staunch Republican. He was married in Bavaria in 1859 to Margarita Schneider, who is yet living, in Joliet.

At the time of coming to the United States Henry Christmann was a boy of fifteen years. From an early age he has been self-supporting, and through his industry and perseverance he has laid the foundation of a very profitable business. After working for six months in a butcher shop he started a meat market of his own, and has since continued in business for himself. In 1892 he erected a two-story brick building north of his shop, but this he later sold. In all of his work he has showed good judgment. He uses great care in the selection of his meats, thus gaining the confidence of his customers. His long experience in the business, combined with his energy and perseverance, well qualify him to carry on his market with success.

While he has never been active in local affairs, Mr. Christmann has firm opinions on political subjects and votes with the Republicans. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Woodmen of America, Home Forum and Loyal Orange Lodge. He is connected with the German Protestant Church and is now serving as its secretary. His first marriage took place January 21, 1888, and united him with Emma Liederbach, who died in 1895, leaving two children, Christopher Frederick and Catherine Louise. March 3, 1897, he was united in marriage to Helen Dieterich, of Joliet, a daughter of Lawrence and Susannah (Schneider) Dieterich, natives of Germany. They settled in Troy Township, where Mrs. Dieterich yet resides, on the old homestead.







*Dr. Romanus J. Custer*



## ROMAINE J. CURTISS.

ROMAINE J. CURTISS, M. D. Those who possess originality of mental attributes form striking figures in local or general history. In keenness of perceptive qualities, in clearness of mind and firmness of convictions, Dr. Curtiss has a leading position among Joliet physicians and surgeons. His record is that of a man fearless in the defence of truth, firm in the expression of his opinions, even when these convictions are diametrically opposed to the views of his collaborators. A constant student of his profession, he has kept in touch with every development that has been made in the medical science, and has himself been a leader in the forward march of discovery and research.

Many generations gone by, in the remote past, the Curtiss family emigrated from Spain, where its members had long lived in peace under their own vine and fig tree, and settled in the less genial England. From there three brothers came with the Cambridge colony to America, settling in Connecticut and Massachusetts. During the Revolutionary war the family was represented at the front. Zurial Curtiss, a native of Connecticut, removed to Cayuga County, N. Y., where his son, Newell, was born. Later he settled in the timber near Plymouth, Richland County, Ohio, where he reared his family on a farm and spent his remaining years. Newell Curtiss was a farmer, and also owned a saw and grist mill, and engaged in the manufacture of lumber and flour, having his mill near New Haven, Huron County, Ohio, where he moved soon after the birth of his son, Romaine J. After a busy and active life he retired to the quiet of his home and is now living at Norwalk, Ohio, at the

age of more than ninety years. He married Marilla Sage, who was born in Oswego, N. Y., and is still living; her father, Roswell, was a farmer in New York.

Of four children Dr. Curtiss was the eldest, and is now the sole survivor. He was born near Plymouth, Ohio, October 1, 1840, and was reared in Huron County. At seventeen years of age he entered Hillsdale (Mich.) College, where he remained for two years. He then took up the study of medicine under Dr. Charles Richards of New Haven, after which he entered the Buffalo Medical College with the intention of completing his course there. However, the Civil war came on and he enlisted as a medical cadet in the army. He was assigned to duty on a hospital boat containing the wounded from Vicksburg who were being taken to St. Louis, and made several similar trips until illness forced him to resign. In 1864 he graduated from Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati as an M. D., and shortly afterward entered the navy as assistant surgeon on the United States flagship "General Burnside," assigned to the Mississippi squadron, eleventh division. At the close of the war he returned home on an extended furlough, and four months later was discharged.

For seven years Dr. Curtiss practiced at Andover, N. Y. While there, through an accident on the railroad, eighty people were killed and sixty wounded. After the accident he was the first on the ground, and was given charge of the wounded. Later he was made surgeon for the Buffalo & Erie (now the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern) Railroad, being the first railroad surgeon ever appointed in the United States. In

September, 1873, he came to Joliet and opened an office for practice. He soon built up a reputation for efficiency and skill. For years he was surgeon for the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern, and the Santa Fe roads; for ten years was surgeon in charge of St. Joseph Hospital, and also acted as surgeon for steel wire mills, etc. He was the first health commissioner of Joliet and organized the health department, also wrote all of the ordinances for the same. On the reorganization of the Will County Medical Society he was its president for a year, and later served as secretary for thirteen years, but in 1895 resigned. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons, Odd Fellows and Grand Army, and in religion he is a Catholic.

The thoroughness of the researches which Dr. Curtiss has made in the realm of bacteriology and in hygiene have brought him into prominence. After long years of study, investigation and experiment, he came to the conclusion that disease is incurable, but its prevention is possible, and therefore he has advocated hygiene and prevention rather than cure. Logically, he practices the prevention of disease and is an ardent hygienist. In explanation of his theory and in proof of its validity, he has contributed papers frequently to medical journals, and these have been studied by members of the profession throughout the entire country. Recently considerable attention was attracted to him through his letter to Andrew Carnegie, inviting him to invest a princely adequate sum of money in the erection of a great technical school where people might be taught the science of hygiene and longevity. In 1882 he was elected to the chair of bacteriology and hygiene, and the chair of general pathology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago. After he had commenced to lecture there he took up the germ theory as being the true cause of disease. The other twenty members of the faculty at first opposed his theory, but in time they were converted to the principle; meantime, however, the struggle was a hard one for him, as he was denounced by many, and only the influence of Dr. Senn, the famous surgeon, saved him from being asked to resign. After ten years in the college he with-

drew to private life. Like all discoverers of new ideas, he has made enemies in his professional career, but he has also made many warm friends and, by his originality of thought and force of character has won for himself an honorable position in the world of thought.

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**E**RASTUS W. WILLARD, of Lockport, superintendent of the lands of the Illinois and Michigan canal, is a member of a family that has been identified with American history since the early part of the seventeenth century. The first of the name in this country was Maj. Simon Willard, who was born in County Kent, England, and settled in Boston, Mass., about 1630, afterward serving as commander of expeditions in the early wars and taking a prominent part in many historic movements. Nor were his descendants less patriotic than he. One of them, Ambrose Willard, a native of Massachusetts and a farmer of that state, served during the war of 1812, defending the American interests in that conflict. He attained the age of eighty-three years. His son, Erastus H. Willard, M. D., who was born in Worcester, Mass., accompanied his parents to New York in boyhood, and later became a physician. In 1848 he was elected a member of the state senate. During the existence of the Whig party he affiliated with its members, and after its disintegration became a Democrat. He died at his home in Spencer July 18, 1886.

The marriage of Dr. Willard united him with Mary S. Moses, who was born in Livingston County, N. Y., in 1808, and was reared in Lima, in the home of her grandfather, a leading educator of that city. Her father was killed when she was a mere child. She died in 1880. Like her husband she always adhered to the Presbyterian faith. Of the ten children born to their union six are still living. Erastus W., the subject of this sketch, was born in Belmont, Allegany County, N. Y., October 22, 1838. Between the years of



twelve and sixteen he was a student in the academy near his home. In January, 1856, he came west to Illinois and secured a clerkship in a drug store in Wilmington, Will County, remaining there for several years. Returning to New York he opened a grocery at Friendship, but when the Civil war broke out he gave his mother a bill of sale for the store and enlisted in the Union army. He was a non-commissioned officer, belonging to Company E, Twenty-third New York Infantry, but was soon transferred to a position as hospital steward. Later he received a commission as first lieutenant of Company G, Sixty-fifth New York Infantry. At the close of his time he was mustered out of service at Almira, N. Y., after which he took the enrollment of his town and served as assistant provost-marshal until 1863.

Deciding to again seek a home in the west Mr. Willard returned to Wilmington, Ill., in September, 1863. The following year when President Lincoln called for men to enlist for one hundred days in order to relieve soldiers, he went out as first lieutenant of Company G, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Infantry. The regiment was ordered to Leavenworth, Kans., where Mr. Willard served on the court martial for two months. He then took his company to Paola, thence returned to Leavenworth, and at the expiration of the time of service went back to Springfield, Ill. During the Price raid he went to Missouri and remained there for two weeks, after which he again went to Springfield and was mustered out of the service.

On resuming the pursuits of civic life Mr. Willard engaged in the drug business at Wilmington, where he remained until 1886. He came to Joliet and established a drug business, which he conducted for years. After selling out his store he was for six months editor of the *Daily Press*, which was then one of the leading papers of the city. A prominent Republican, he served as a member of the state central committee in 1892, 1894 and 1896, and acted as chairman of the committee on organization in 1896 and 1898. He served as chairman of the Will County central committee in 1892 and 1896. In 1884, when

he took charge of the Republican committee, the county had been giving Democratic majorities for several years, but under his management an enthusiasm in behalf of the Republican party was developed. In 1880 he did the entire work for the Republican cause in the county, and secured John A. Logan to come to Wilmington and make a speech. Under the administration of Governor Tanner in February, 1897, he was appointed to superintend the landed interests of the canal, and at the same time established his home in Lockport, where he has since resided.

Fraternally Mr. Willard is connected with Lodge No. 208, A. F. & A. M.; Joliet Chapter No. 27, R. A. M.; Joliet Commandery No. 24, and for three years was master of the lodge, for some years served as high priest of the chapter, and for two years was eminent commander of the commandery. He assisted in organizing the Grand Army post in Wilmington and was elected its first commander; afterward, on removing to Joliet, he identified himself with the post of this city.

June 28, 1871, Mr. Willard married Miss Jessie R. Duck, of Wilmington, by whom he has three children, Francis D., Edward H. and Jessie.

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**M**ICHAEL C. HALEY, a pioneer of Manhattan Township, was born in Ireland in 1842, and at two years of age was brought to America by his parents, Martin and Catherine (Curry) Haley. Not long afterward his father died in New York while still a young man; the mother passed away at the home of her son, July 30, 1895, and their only daughter, Bridget, is also deceased, so that our subject is the only living member of the family. He was reared by his uncle, Thomas Haley, whom he accompanied to Illinois at twelve years of age, and with whom he remained until grown. In 1862 he enlisted in Company D, Ninetieth Illinois Infantry, in which he served for eighteen months, and was then honorably discharged on account of wounds

received at Jackson, Miss., July 13, 1863. Returning to his uncle's home, he was for a time unable to engage in active work, but as soon as he had regained his strength he began farming for himself. In 1864 he bought forty acres from the Illinois Central Railroad Company. Three years later he bought his present farm of eighty acres, on which he has since made improvements and engaged in general agricultural pursuits. Besides this place he owns one hundred and sixty acres in Kit Carson County, Colo.

In his political opinions Mr. Haley is a Republican, and has worked actively for his party. For several years he served as deputy sheriff under Sheriffs Houston, Piepenbrink and Francis. During most of the years since 1864 he has been constable of the township. In Goddard Post, G. A. R., at Manhattan, he is an active worker and senior vice-commander. He assisted in the organization of the Anti-Horse-thief Association, of which he has since been captain. October 16, 1864, he married Margaret, daughter of John Murphy, of Joliet. One child blessed their union, a son, William M., who died at the age of twenty-nine years. Mr. Haley has been a hard-working man, and with the assistance of his wife has become the owner of valuable property, which represents years of industry and tireless application on his part.

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**N**ELSON E. HAZELTON. The entire life of Mr. Hazelton has been passed on the family homestead in Wesley Township, where he was born. His father, Charles R., a native of Bennington, Vt., removed to Ohio in early life, thence years afterward went to Aurora, Ill., and about 1852 settled in Wesley Township, where he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. The subsequent years of his busy life were passed here. The principal development of his township took place under his immediate observation. From an uncultivated prairie he saw it changed to a garden spot, worthy to be compared with the finest places in his native New England.

His attention was chiefly directed to general farming, although he bestowed some attention on stock-raising. From time to time he added to his possessions until he owned about six hundred acres, all representing his unaided efforts. His success was even more gratifying than his fondest hopes had painted, for when he left Vermont, a poor youth of eighteen, and started for a strange section of the country, he had not dared to hope that he would be in later years a large land owner. He was spared to a very advanced age, being eighty-nine at the time he was called from earth, November 14, 1898. His first wife died in Ohio, leaving two sons, Norman and George. Afterward he married a widow, Mrs. Annie (Van Fleet) Ball, by whom he had five children, namely: Ella, wife of William Mellen; Vesta, who married Amasa Bell; Ida, wife of Charles Walton; Susan, Mrs. Thomas B. Reid, of Kansas; and Nelson E., of this sketch. The widowed mother, at the age of seventy-five years, is a remarkably well-preserved old lady, keen, active and vigorous; she is living on a part of the old homestead.

Born in 1862, our subject passed the years of youth at the old homestead, carefully reared under the supervision of his parents. He received common-school advantages, and these, aided by reading, observation and experience, have made him a well-informed man. He has followed the uneventful life of a farmer, having taken charge of the home farm at the age of twenty-one, and now he cultivates three hundred and twenty acres, besides buying and selling stock. In 1899 he erected on the old home place a residence that is without doubt the finest in the township, being modern in its appointments and artistic in appearance, while its furnishings are of a character that indicate the refined tastes of the family. It contains not only the necessities but also the comforts of modern life. While he was more fortunate than some young men in that he was given a start in life by his father, yet, had it not been for his energy, good judgment and industry, he could not have attained the success now his. His farm work is invariably conducted in a thorough and progressive manner. He raises



large quantities of grain, averaging three thousand bushels of corn and seven thousand bushels of oats each year.

Like the other members of the Hazelton family, Mr. Hazelton is a Republican, but not a politician nor a partisan. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. May 21, 1885, he married Jennie, daughter of John W. Raymond, of Kankakee County. They have two daughters, Nellie and Genieve. The family occupy a high position in the social life of the community and always lend substantial aid to educational and charitable enterprises.

**W**ERDEN BUCK, who is one of the successful business men of Joliet, is a son of George A. Buck, a pioneer of this city. He was born in Manhattan, Will County, in 1869, on the 9th of February, and spent his early childhood years in that place, but in 1880 came to Joliet, where he attended the high school until the close of the junior year. His first employment, for which he was paid \$5 a week, was as collector and night operator for the Chicago Telephone Company, a position that required him to work twenty hours out of the twenty-four. After six months in the position he became an employe of Paige & Benson, owners of a grocery and a coal and ice business. At first he was connected with the ice department. Soon A. W. Hays and Chester Paige succeeded J. D. Paige in the grocery business, while Paige & Benson remained in the ice and fuel business. In 1888 Mr. Buck bought Chester Paige's interest in the grocery, which was conducted under the title of A. W. Hays & Co., the location being in the old opera house block, on the corner of Chicago and Clinton streets. When that building was burned down, in 1892, the business was removed across the street to the Auditorium block, where Mr. Buck has since carried on a large and profitable trade, at No. 302 Chicago street.

In 1894 the firm opened a coal and building

material business on Cass street, where they dealt in sewer pipe, drain tile and fuel. March 9, 1898, Mr. Buck bought his partner's interest, and has since been sole proprietor of the coal yards, at Nos. 511-513 Cass street. He has a building 40x132, with yards in the rear, and carries in stock all kinds of pressed brick manufactured in the United States, also sewer pipe, drain tile, etc., in which he conducts an extensive business. He is president of the Retail Merchants' Association of Joliet, and stands high among the business men of his city, where he is known as a man of unusual enterprise and sound judgment. As a Democrat, he has been active in politics, and has served as treasurer of the city Democratic committee. For one term he held the office of township collector. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America.

The marriage of Mr. Buck, which took place in Joliet, united him with Miss Inez Paige, daughter of J. D. Paige, superintendent of the Joliet fire department. One son blesses their union, George Paige. Mrs. Buck is a Universalist in religious belief, and, while Mr. Buck is not connected with any denomination, he is in sympathy with all movements for the uplifting of humanity. He is a progressive citizen and earnestly favors measures for the benefit of Joliet, in whose future as a commercial center he has the greatest faith.

**W**ALTER D. STEVENS is one of the enterprising business men of Joliet, where since 1896 he has been proprietor of a carriage repository. He occupies a three-story building, 66x60 feet, furnished with every modern equipment, including elevators, etc., and stocked with Babcock buggies, Ariel bicycles and vehicles of all kinds. The location, on the corner of Van Buren and Joliet streets, is convenient and central. As a business man he has already gained a name and place among the people of Joliet. Active and judicious, he uses sagacity in

all of his business dealings, and shows keen judgment in both buying and selling. His honorable dealings have won for him the confidence of the people.

The father of our subject, J. W. Stevens, was born in Gaudhurst, England, and coming to America, became a business man of Joliet in 1848, opening a dry-goods store on Jefferson street. Two years afterward his wife joined him, crossing the ocean on the sailing vessel "Irving," which landed in New York after a voyage of thirty days. Her brother-in-law, Capt. R. J. Doughty, was owner of the vessel on which she crossed. From New York she proceeded by rail to Buffalo, thence via the lakes to Chicago and canal to Joliet. She was born in County Kent, England, and bore the maiden name of Harriet Deverson. Her father, Daniel Deverson, also a native of County Kent and a farmer, died there at eighty-six years, while her mother, Annie, daughter of Stephen Stokes, a farmer, spent her entire life in the same county, where she died at eighty-four years. There were twelve children in the family, but only four are living. Harriet, who was next to the youngest of the twelve, is the only member of the family in America. Possessing considerable business ability, as soon as she joined her husband in Joliet she began to assist him, and for some time carried on a millinery business in connection with his dry-goods store. After his death, in 1859, she continued at the head of the entire establishment. In 1861 she was a second time married, becoming the wife of Frank Bush, who was born in Whitehall, N. Y., a son of Stephen and a brother of J. E. Bush. He came to Illinois about 1854, and with his brother, Henry, engaged in cattle dealing and the wholesale meat business. He owned a farm of one hundred and thirty acres adjoining the city. He died November 10, 1897. The following year forty acres of his farm was sold to Joliet for a park and was named Bush park.

In 1871 Mrs. Bush bought a store on Jefferson street, where she continued business until 1892, and then sold both the stock of goods and the building. In 1863 she bought a beautiful home

on the corner of Western avenue and Hickory street. She has built many tenement houses both on the east and west sides, and built the Bush block on the corner of Exchange and Bluff streets. In 1892 she erected the Strobbridge building, corner of Van Buren and Joliet streets. She still owns ninety acres of land adjoining Bush park, and this she superintends. To her first marriage three sons were born, Walter D.; Irving D. (in Alaska), formerly the first secretary of the Joliet Stove Works, afterward engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements, and for thirty years one of the prosperous and prominent business men in Joliet; and Eugene, an assayer of great ability and prominence, in Leadville, Colo. Four children were born of her second marriage, namely: Hattie, wife of Peter Shutts, attorney, of Joliet; Luella, at home; Charles Franklin, who is agent for the Wells-Fargo Express Company, at Des Moines, Iowa; and Arthur Willis, formerly manager of the Joliet Gas Company.

At the time his mother came to Joliet our subject was two years old. He was born in Dover, England, September 28, 1848, but the only home he remembers in connection with his early childhood is Joliet. During the war he was sent to school in England and spent five years in Canterbury Academy, after which he shipped in the English merchant marine service under an uncle, who was a captain engaged in the Mediterranean trade. Returning to Joliet he engaged in the grocery business as a member of the firm of Carson & Stevens, after which he was in the lumber business with Frank Bush & Co., then engaged in the book and stationery business alone. In 1873 he went to Georgetown, Colo., where at first he was interested in prospecting and mining, but soon turned his attention to the insurance and real-estate and mining business. In 1879 he went from Georgetown to Leadville, where he engaged in the same business. While in the west he traveled through the coast country and in British Columbia. Returning to Joliet in 1893 he was first connected with his brother Irving D., but in 1896 he started in business alone.

In politics Mr. Stevens has always affiliated



with the Republicans. From 1873 to 1893 he served as a delegate to every state Republican convention in Colorado. For one term he was assessor. He also served as police magistrate and ex-officio mayor of Georgetown. He is well-informed regarding public affairs, although he has not been so active in Illinois as in Colorado, for his attention is quite closely given to business matters, and he has little leisure for participation in politics.

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**CYRUS A. LEWIS.** No man has done more for the development of the agricultural interests of New Lenox Township than has Mr. Lewis, and few are better known that he. Since he came to this county in 1850 and settled upon his present farm he has transformed the raw prairie land into a valuable and highly-cultivated tract, having purchased, soon after his arrival, one hundred and sixty acres at \$4 an acre, to which he has since added until he now owns four hundred acres of fine land, devoted to general farm products. He also owns city property and is a director in the Joliet National bank.

Mr. Lewis was born in Decatur, N. Y., July 19, 1824, a descendant of ancestors who came from Wales and settled in Hartford County, Conn. His father, Justus Lewis, a native of Connecticut, removed to New York in an early day and settled in the woods, where he cleared a farm. Upon that place he made his home for sixty years. During the Revolutionary war he was stationed at West Point, on the Hudson, and helped to forge and lay the chain across the river for the purpose of preventing the enemy from coming up stream. He died when eighty-six years of age. His wife was Candace Spencer, of Connecticut, who died in 1843, at the age of forty-three years. They were the parents of four children, viz.: Coridon S., deceased; Marilla, widow of A. B. Cornwell; Jane, deceased; and Cyrus A.

Educated in the common schools of New York,

Mr. Lewis remained at home until his removal to Illinois in 1850, and since then he has been identified with the history of this county. He has held a number of township offices and has always been a staunch Republican. By his marriage, in 1847, to Emeline Seward, a native of New York, he has seven children. The oldest son and second child, Spencer, went to China in 1881 as a missionary for the Methodist Episcopal Church and is now superintendent of the West China mission. Since going to that country he has twice returned to America to visit relatives, and his two children are now attending school in Chicago. The other members of the family are as follows: Mary, wife of William Greenwood; Candace, who married Calvin Armigast; Nellie, Mrs. Julian Barnes; C. Almon, Sherman and Jennie, Mrs. Henry Lantz.

In the organization of the Grange Mr. Lewis took an active part and he served as its master for several years. A man of firm religious convictions, he has long been a leading member of the Ottawa Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Joliet, and for some years officiated as a trustee. All movements for the benefit of the community receive his sympathy and support. The prosperity which he has attained is solely the result of individual application and effort. When he began to work he received \$4 a month at carpentering, and from that small beginning he has worked his way forward to a position of financial prosperity and an assured standing as a farmer and a citizen.

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**WILLIAM E. DAVISON**, who is well known as a successful merchant tailor of Joliet, was born near West Woodburn, thirty miles north of Newcastle-on-Tyne, County Northumberland, England, on Christmas day of 1862. His father and grandfather, both of whom bore the name of Walter Davison, were natives of the same county as himself. His father, who was engaged in farming and also in the manufacture of shoes, made his home at Laurel cot-

tage, a beautiful place near West Woodburn, and there he died in May, 1866, when our subject was little more than three years of age. In religion he was a Presbyterian. He had married Margaret Brown, who was born at Davy Shield Hill, two miles from the famous battlefield of Chevy Chase. She was a daughter of Thomas Brown. She survived her husband ten years, dying in March, 1876. Of her six children, John Adam, was head bookkeeper for a large wallpaper manufacturing establishment at Newcastle-on-Tyne until his death in 1871; Jane Ann lives at Ridsdale, Northumberland; Margaret is the wife of Ralph Nesbit, of Ridsdale; Thomas J. succeeded his older brother as bookkeeper in the wallpaper house, remaining there until he died in 1891; Walter Robson is yardmaster for the Michigan Central Railway Company at Joliet.

The youngest member of the family was William Edward, of this sketch. He was reared at Laurel cottage. When twelve years of age he completed the studies in the government school. August 20, 1875, he was apprenticed to the tailor's trade at East Woodburn and after his mother died he went to live with his employer, with whom he remained during the rest of his five years' apprenticeship, when he worked for George Handyside at Cambo, England. In 1880 he went to Edinburgh, Scotland, where he pursued his trade. The next year he secured work at his trade in Ballymena, County Antrim, Ireland, where he remained for more than two years. In the spring of 1884 he took passage from Liverpool on the "Adriatic." April of the same year found him in Joliet, where he spent the summer. In September he entered the employ of Ely, of Chicago, and there learned cutting. In 1887 he returned to Joliet, which he had selected as his permanent location. In partnership with John W. Hudson, who had come to America with him in 1884, he started in business, the firm name being Hudson & Davison. After one year on North Chicago street, Mr. Davison purchased his partner's interest, continuing at the same place until August, 1889, when he secured his present location in the Clement building, No. 107 South Ottawa street. Here

he has a large stock comprising the latest and finest patterns, and his business is the largest of its kind in the city, a result that is to be attributed entirely to his energy, thorough knowledge of the business, and courteous treatment of customers.

Mr. Davison was one of the first to build on Buell avenue, which has since become one of the finest drives in the city. He was married in this city, in January, 1889, to Mrs. Carrie (Wallace) Sonntag. Her father, George Wallace, a native of Stroudsburg, Pa., was a nephew of the late Firman Mack, who was one of the pioneers and prominent business men of Joliet. Mr. Wallace was reared in his native place. For some years he clerked in a boot and shoe store in Philadelphia. In 1849 he came to Joliet, where he was employed by his uncle, Mr. Mack, until 1855. He then opened a retail shoe store on Jefferson street, continuing business there until his retirement. He died October 6, 1881, at the age of fifty-two years. He had married, October 22, 1857, Elizabeth P. Moore, who was born at Clarkson, Monroe County, N. Y., a daughter of Rev. James H. and Jane (Parkinson) Moore. Her father, who was born near New York City, was for years a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church. During the '40s he came to Illinois and settled in Kendall County, where he was a pioneer preacher. At the time of the discovery of gold in California in 1849, he and his son, Parkinson, crossed the plains to California, where they engaged in mining for some years. From there he returned to Illinois. Soon afterward, however, he again went west, this time settling in Kansas in order to cast in his lot with the free-state adherents. He took part in the border warfare of those days and helped to vote in Kansas as a free state. As a minister and farmer he was well known in Kansas, where he remained until his death. Mrs. Wallace resides on North Hickory street, Joliet. She had but two children, both daughters, Mrs. Davison, and Laura-bel, wife of C. W. Brown, of Joliet. Mr. and Mrs. Davison are the parents of three daughters, Kittiebel, Jessie Henrietta and Clara Elizabeth. The oldest daughter graduated from the Joliet



high school in 1899 and is now studying in the training school in this city. The family are connected with the Ottawa Street Methodist Episcopal Church.

**ABNER C. GILLETT**, proprietor of the Hickory Creek dairy farm in New Lenox Township, was born in Wayne County, N. Y., in 1842. His father, Isaac M. Gillett, a native of Otsego County, N. Y., born November 28, 1814, settled in Seneca County, but about 1842 moved to Wayne County, and from there came to Illinois in 1855. The spring of that year found him in Dupage County, but in the fall he settled in Homer Township, Will County, where he bought a farm of one hundred and thirty acres. By subsequent purchase he increased his holdings to five hundred acres. While holding the office of road commissioner he assisted in laying out the roads in the town of Homer. Politically he was a Republican. He died on his homestead February 25, 1898, when eighty-four years of age. His father, Abner C. Gillett, was a lifelong resident and farmer of New York and was identified with the early history of Seneca County. A man of deep religious convictions, he assisted in the work of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which he belonged. He died in spring of 1861, at seventy-six years of age.

The mother of our subject was a daughter of Adam Carman, member of a Quaker family of New York. In her family were four children, namely: Abner C.; Egbert A.; D. A., who occupies the homestead in Homer Township; and Isaac M., of Spencer. The mother is still living on the old home farm and is now eighty-five years of age. When the family settled in this county our subject was fourteen years of age. In the fall of 1861 he enlisted in Company G, Thirty-ninth Illinois Infantry, under Gen. T. O. Osburn, and served for three years, mostly in the army of the James River, although he spent eighteen months with Gilmore in South Carolina. He witnessed the bombardment of Fort Sumter

April 7, 1863. After being mustered out he returned to his home. In the spring of 1865 he married Mary E. Gorham, who was born in New York. After his marriage he lived on the old homestead for three years. In 1868 he moved to Miami County, Kans., where he bought a small farm of forty acres and remained some years. Returning to Will County in 1873 he spent five years on his father's farm.

In the spring of 1878 Mr. Gillett bought the old Smith Reynolds farm. He now owns two hundred and seventy acres, on which he engages in dairy farming, keeping about one hundred milch cows and shipping twenty cans of milk to Chicago every day. Fraternally he is identified with Mount Joliet Lodge No. 42, A. F. & A. M., in which he is past master; and also belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic. He and his wife have one daughter, Jennie, who is the wife of Harry W. Storm.

**MRS. MARY E. GOTTS.** One of the well-known business concerns of Joliet is the American Ice Company, of which Mrs. Gotts is the proprietor, and which carries on a large trade in ice, coal and wood. The office and yards of the company are at Chicago and Columbia streets, and the ice houses, which have a large capacity, are also at the same location. Three wagons are used constantly in the delivery of orders. The business is under the personal superintendence of Mrs. Gotts and its success is due almost wholly to her executive ability and perseverance, although she has had an able assistant in her brother, Edward F. Reiter, who is manager of the ice business. In addition to the oversight of this work, she is also proprietor of a large dressmaking establishment that furnishes employment to eight seamstresses and turns out tailor made garments of the finest and latest styles.

Mrs. Gotts was born in Homer Township, this county, and was third among the eleven children of Peter and Helen (Biever) Reiter, who settled on a farm at Peck's Corner, Homer Township,

about 1863. When a mere child she became interested in dressmaking, for which she seems to have inherited a natural talent, her ancestors on both sides of the house having been tailors and dressmakers. In 1888 she came to Joliet in order to engage more extensively in the dressmaking business, and she has since continued this work successfully, in addition to personally superintending the ice business. She and her son, Alva, reside at No. 403 Collins street.

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**C**ORNELIUS C. VAN HORNE, one of the first settlers of this county, descended from a family of Hollanders who settled in the Mohawk Valley in 1635 and from there scattered throughout the country. He was born in Whitehouse, N. J., a son of Abraham Van Horne. It was the hope of his parents to fit him for the ministry. One of his ancestors, it is said, was the first pastor of Trinity Church in New York and was buried in the cemetery there. However, his talents did not seem to lie in the line of the ministry and he studied for the bar, to which he was admitted in New Jersey. In 1832 he came west to what is now New Lenox Township, this county. Two years later he moved to Frankfort Township, where he was a pioneer farmer and lawyer. He was the first postmaster ever appointed in Will County, serving as such both at New Lenox and Frankfort, and he also served as justice of the peace. In February, 1852, he established his law office in Joliet. A year later, on the incorporation of the city, he was elected the first mayor, and was serving in that office at the time of his death, July 7, 1854. Had not his career been so suddenly terminated, he would undoubtedly have attained great success at the bar of Joliet and in the political life of the city and state, for he was a man of fine talents and broad knowledge. The Democratic party received his support and its candidates his vote. In religious faith he was a Universalist.

Mr. Van Horne was twice married. His first

wife, whom he married in Indiana, was born in Ohio and died in Montreal, Canada. Of the children of his first marriage, five were sons and one a daughter. One of the sons, Simon, yet lives in California, and another, Abram, in Nebraska. Five children were born of his second marriage, namely: William; Augustus C.; Mrs. Elizabeth Leffler, of Missouri; Theodore, a telegraph operator for the Chicago & Alton Railroad at Bloomington, Ill.; and Mary, who lives in Montreal. The most distinguished member of the family is the oldest son, Sir William Van Horne, of Montreal. When a boy he learned telegraphy in Joliet, and afterward worked his way up in the railroad business. For many years he was with the Chicago & Alton Railroad and later with other roads. As general manager he took the contract for the building of the western end of the Canadian Pacific road from Winnipeg to the coast, which work, had it not been for his efforts, would not have been completed for many years, or perhaps never. On the completion of the road he was elected to succeed Sir John Stephenson as president of the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company, of which he is still the head. He was afterward knighted by Queen Victoria in London, England, for services rendered in the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, and the development and opening up to civilization of British Columbia.

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**A**UGUSTUS C. VAN HORNE was born in Frankfort Township, this county, September 22, 1844. He was a boy of ten years when his father, Cornelius C., died very suddenly of cholera. At seventeen years of age he began to make his own way in the world, his first work being as carpenter with a bridge-building gang. A year later he was made a fireman on the Michigan Central Railroad, and in 1864 he accepted similar work on the Chicago & Alton Railroad. He continued in that capacity until 1871, when he was promoted to be engineer on a freight train. From 1873 to 1875 he was on the old Missouri road, but with that exception he



continued steadily with the Chicago & Alton for some years. Later he was with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad as engineer out from Portage, but after two years returned to the Chicago & Alton, on which he has since been engineer. Meantime he was for eleven years engine house foreman in Joliet, for eighteen months in Bloomington and for six months in Chicago. His run is now between Joliet and Brighton. He is a reliable, trustworthy engineer, and has never met with a serious accident during all of his long connection with the road.

The home of Mr. Van Horne is at No. 201 Union street, Joliet. In New Lenox, this county, he was married to Emma A., daughter of George Nelson Marvin, who came from Syracuse, N. Y., to this county in 1854 and settled in Plainfield Township upon a farm. For some years he has been retired and now makes his home with Mr. Van Horne. Both our subject and his wife are identified with the Richards Street Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he holds office as president of the board of trustees. Politically he is independent. At one time he was connected with the Knights of Pythias and at this writing he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a member of Matteson Lodge No. 175, A. F. & A. M.; Joliet Chapter No. 27, R. A. M., and Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T. With his wife he is connected with Chapter No. 187 of the Eastern Star, of which Mrs. Van Horne was the first matron and in which she has since filled many offices with tact and ability.

ward represented in the council for five terms, making seven terms altogether. His object in accepting the office was in order that he might use his influence to secure the adoption of separate systems of sewage and drainage, and upon accomplishing that he refused to serve further in the council.

In 1886 Mr. Riley was elected to the state legislature, serving in the thirty-fifth assembly. He offered the joint resolution in the house of representatives creating a commission to solve the drainage problem of Chicago. He was made a member of the same, with instructions to report to the thirty-sixth assembly a practicable method of disposing of the sewage of Chicago. The other members of the committee were John A. Roche (then mayor of Chicago), T. C. McMillan and Barney Eckhart, both of Chicago, and A. J. Bell, of Peoria. Accompanying their report was what is now known as the drainage law, of which Mr. Riley had charge in the house and L. E. Cooley in the senate, and which they were instrumental in passing. Later they secured what was known as the passage of the "Little Waterway bill" to connect, by the fourteen-foot channel, the present drainage channel in Lockport and the Mississippi River. After a hard fight this bill became a law by vote of the legislature in 1894, but was vetoed by Governor Altgeld, and, as a result of the veto, the people are now holding deep-water conventions to secure the accomplishment of the same results. In the thirty-fifth assembly Mr. Riley was a member of the revenue, canals and drainage and warehouse committees.

A resident of Joliet since 1872, Mr. Riley was born in Syracuse, N. Y., February 20, 1848, a descendant of a Danish family by whom the name was spelled Reilley, but this was shortened to its present form by our subject for convenience. He was second of seven children, all but one of whom attained maturity, and five sons are now living, three being in this county. One son, James, now of Little Falls, N. Y., was a soldier in Scott's Nine Hundred from New York during the Civil war. The father, Edward Reilley, was born in County Leitrim, Ireland, in 1803, and

**H**ON. THOMAS H. RILEY. To many of the people of this county Mr. Riley is best known through his efforts in behalf of drainage and deep-water interests and through his incumbency of various important offices. Always a Democrat, he has never wavered in his allegiance to this party. In 1877 he was elected alderman from the first ward, two years later was elected from the second ward, which he after-

came to the United States in 1826, and in early manhood settled in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., later removing to a farm now within the city limits of Syracuse, N. Y. He became interested in the manufacture of salt, which he continued for years. In 1881 he came to Joliet, and died here three years later, at eighty-two years of age. He married Julia Black, who was born in County Kildare, Ireland, of French descent, and died in Syracuse, N. Y.

Leaving home in 1865, our subject went to the Pennsylvania oil region, where he engaged in teaming for a year, and then had a boat of his own on the Allegheny River, later had three boats on Erie canal, making Syracuse his headquarters. In the spring of 1872 he came to Joliet and for a few months was a steersman on the canal. Afterward he clerked in a grocery until the spring of 1875, when he started in business for himself. Later he was proprietor of the Auburn house, and in 1883 started in the artesian well business, sinking several wells, the deepest of which was twelve hundred feet. In 1886 he sold out and started in the undertaking business at No. 412 Van Buren street, where he had erected a building in 1882, and since then he has engaged steadily in business as an undertaker and funeral director. He built seven stores, all of two stories, fronting on Van Buren street, also a livery barn. Meantime, he has also engaged in general contracting, and had the contracts for the water works at the state penitentiary, also for two miles of dyke in the drainage ditch, the principal sewers of Joliet, and the water works and conduits taking the water to the different mills of the Illinois Steel Company. In 1890 he laid out Riley's Riverview Driving Park, in which he invested \$25,000 in improvements, and which has a half-mile track that is not only the best in the state, but also one of the finest in the country. For two years he held a county fair, but the second year lost \$5,000, so abandoned the enterprise. He probably did what no other man in the United States ever attempted, namely, he himself organized the Will County Mechanical and Agricultural Association, putting up the best buildings for that purpose in the state, and

equipping the same. Coming as it did right after the World's Fair it was not appreciated by the people and the large deficit was due to that.

In Joliet Mr. Riley married Miss Bridget Barry, whose father, Edmund Barry, was an early settler of this city and an employe on the Chicago & Alton Railroad. During the existence of the Illinois Valley Circuit Mr. Riley represented the whole of the Joliet interest and therefore was one of its prominent members. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Court of Honor. The noble impulses of Mr. Riley's public-spirited measures are beginning to be understood and appreciated by the wise and broad minded citizens of Joliet, where he has been a conspicuous figure for many years and where he is justly held in high esteem as an honored man and a representative citizen. He has not sought his own aggrandizement, but has planned for the best interest of the city that claims him and that is justly proud of him as one of its best citizens. His fight in the thirty-fifth assembly against the Hurd bill and his hard work in favor of the drainage law under which the now famous drainage channel was constructed are a matter of history from which future generations will learn useful lessons of unselfish devotion to progress and higher civilization.

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**P**HILIP JACOB KIEP, a pioneer of Joliet, was born in Prussia, Germany, and was orphaned when quite young, his mother dying when he was two years of age and his father six years later. In youth he learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed in his native land and also for a time after coming to America. When he was twenty-four years of age, in 1854, he crossed the ocean to the United States, proceeding direct to Joliet, where he was engaged in the shoe business for some time. During the early days of his residence in this city he was a volunteer member of the fire department. For a time he carried on a liquor business and later conducted a boarding house at No. 308 South



Chicago street, where he bought a substantial two-story building. He was a member of the Sharpshooters' Association and St. John's Society, and he and his wife were among the first members of St. John's Catholic Church. Politically, after becoming a naturalized citizen, he always voted with the Democratic party. He bought residence property at No. 407 North Hickory street and built the house in which his widow now resides. Here his death occurred June 15, 1894.

The marriage of Mr. Kiep took place in Joliet on the last day of 1857 and united him with Miss Helena St. Julian, who was born in Alsace, a daughter of Anton and Elizabeth (Graff) St. Julian, natives of the same province. Her father, who was a descendant of an old French family, brought the family to America in 1847 and died in Joliet seven years later. His wife died in this city in 1872. They were the parents of five daughters and one son, the latter now deceased. Mrs. Kiep is the only member of the family living in Joliet, and has made this city her home since 1847, when thirteen years of age. Since her husband's death she has lived quietly at the homestead, caring for the interests of her family and overseeing the affairs of the home. Of her children, the three oldest, John, Joseph and Frank, are proprietors of a meat market in Joliet; Robert is engaged in the jewelry business on Chicago street; Philip is with his brothers in the meat business; Josephine, Mary and Theresa reside with their mother.

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**B**ERNARD BAILEY, superintendent of the Phoenix Horse Shoe Company of Joliet, was born in Rosendale, Ulster County, N. Y., October 19, 1854, a son of Francis Henry and Grace (Straub) Bailey. In 1848 his father started to cross the ocean on an old sailing vessel that was wrecked off the coast of Ireland, after which the passengers were transferred to another ship, and finally reached the new world.

He settled in Ulster County and embarked in the hotel business, continuing to carry on a hotel until his death in 1885. As a Republican he was active in local politics. During the time of the Civil war he served as collector of taxes. He was a man of influence and prominence in his community, and was a potent factor in the up-building of the German Catholic Church. After coming to this country he married Miss Grace Straub, by whom he had four sons and four daughters, six now living. All remain in the east excepting Bernard, the eldest. He was educated in the Ulster County schools. He served an apprenticeship as machinist with McEntee & Dillon at Rondout, N. Y., at the expiration of which he was employed in a shop in New York City, where he remained for three years. Returning to Rondout he was employed by the West Shore Railroad Company as a machinist for three and one-half years. His next position was in the employ of the Union Cement Company, of East Kingston, N. Y.

In October, 1889, Mr. Bailey made an engagement with the Phoenix Horse Shoe Company at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., as a machinist. By this company in 1893 he was sent to Joliet as foreman of the machine department, which position he held for two years, and was then promoted to be superintendent of the roller mills. These are the only mills of the kind in Illinois and are the largest west of the Alleghenies, having a capacity of one hundred tons. The number of employes varies with the amount of work on hand, but usually reaches about three hundred. There is such a good demand for the products of the mills that at this writing they are running overtime.

Fraternally Mr. Bailey is a member of the lodge, chapter and council of the Masonic Order, Court No. 177, Order of Foresters, in Joliet; Stevenson Camp No. 2892, Modern Woodmen; and Adler Lodge No. 388, I. O. O. F., at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He has been fairly active in politics and has served as a delegate to Republican conventions and in other ways aided his party in its work. At the time of President McKinley's visit to Joliet in 1899, Mr. Bailey was a member of the reception committee that

went to Morris to meet the president. President McKinley inquired of Mr. Bailey if he carried a "good luck" shoe with him. He replied that, while he did not, he would have one made for the president. Later he made a fine shoe, which was nickel-plated, engraved and forwarded to Mr. McKinley.

December 23, 1879, Mr. Bailey married Charlotte Schriver, of New York City. They are the parents of nine children: Bernard J., who is in the works at Joliet; Frederick Raymond, who is with the Bates Machine Company; George, Hor-tense, Grace, Samuel, Lincoln, William and Elisha H.

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**A**LMON N. HILTON. The record of the subject of this sketch entitles him to conspicuous mention in the present work, for his life is an example of the power of resolute working and steadfast integrity, and illustrates in no uncertain manner what it is possible to accomplish when perseverance and determination form the keynote of a man's life. He is now in the prime of life, and the position he has already attained, though worthy of commendation, is without doubt but an index to future years of prosperity. His keen business acumen and progressive ideas have not only placed him in the front rank of the citizens of Symerton, but have also made him prominent among the grain dealers in the county.

Mr. Hilton was born in North Anson, Somerset County, Me., August 6, 1857, a son of Joshua N. and Nancy H. (Knolton) Hilton. He was one of a family of six children, four of whom are living. His sisters are: Laura, wife of J. J. Newell, of Waterville, Me.; H. May, wife of Eugene Lawrence, of Madison, Me.; and Winifred, who resides with her father. The Hilton ancestry is traced back to William Hilton, a man of influence and a Revolutionary soldier. During that war two of his brothers were killed by Indians. After peace had been declared he moved up the Kennebec River and settled on a

tract of land in Somerset County. On this place he built a log cabin and later a frame house. It was in this home that his son, Joshua, grew to manhood, surrounded by all the environments of the frontier. The only advantages which he had were those physical benefits derived from an outdoor life; there were no public schools, and even subscription schools were few in number, so he was forced to depend upon his unaided exertions in obtaining a knowledge of the three R's. After his marriage to Sarah Heald he removed to another part of Somerset County, and there his subsequent years were uneventfully passed.

On this homestead Joshua N. Hilton was born in 1835. Some time after his marriage he purchased and removed to the property upon which his grandfather, William, had settled as a pioneer. He has since continued to reside on that place, engaged in agricultural pursuits. While he is not an office seeker nor a politician, he is a man of influence in his community, and a stalwart supporter of the Republican party. He has long been active in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and at one time held the highest office in his home lodge. He had a brother, Amos (now deceased), who was a member of the Maine legislature and took an important part in the passing of beneficial measures during his time as a public servant.

The village of North Anson, at an early period of its existence, alive to the advantages afforded by a good education, had founded in its midst an academy where the knowledge acquired in public schools could be supplemented by a thorough course in the higher branches. It was in this institution that our subject completed his education. As he grew to manhood the question of a permanent occupation and location occupied much of his time. He looked about him upon the surroundings with which he had been familiar from his earliest recollections; he saw a small town, remote from the business centers of the country; obscure and unknown; its citizens as a rule unambitious, its opportunities meagre. Believing that the west would afford greater privileges he determined to seek a home here.

Reaching Illinois he at once sought employ-



ment, for he had little money and was anxious to secure any work that offered an honest livelihood. His first position was in an elevator at New Lenox, this county. His work was exceedingly difficult and exhausting, and after fourteen months, finding his health was giving way under the strain, he felt obliged to resign. During the summer of 1880 he visited California, with a view to recuperating his health. He found a business opening at Orofino, Siskiyou County, that state, and so remained there for thirteen months. Meantime his former employer at New Lenox had been urging him to return, promising him more congenial employment in his mercantile business which he conducted in connection with the grain business. Thus Mr. Hilton was influenced to return. For four years he remained in the store. In 1885 he and his cousin, G. S. Hilton, bought a grain elevator at Manhattan, and he took charge of the business. This was the beginning of his success. From that time he pushed his way ahead, with fewer obstacles than before. In December, 1888, he and his cousin sold the business at Manhattan, and he came to Symerton, purchasing the elevator at this place early in 1889. Here he built a large new elevator and also added to his grain trade a drain, tile, coal and lumber business.

In political sentiment Mr. Hilton is a Republican. Though in no sense a politician, he takes an earnest and active part in the conduct of public affairs, and in casting his ballot at local elections casts his vote for a candidate differing with himself in politics if he believes that candidate will better serve the people than his own party's nominee; for it is his belief that in local matters the man and the principle should carry more weight than the opinions of the candidate concerning protective tariff, free coinage of silver, expansion, and other national problems. At various times he has held the town offices and he has also served as supervisor of Florence Township, into which office he has brought the same business traits and the same energy noticeable in his private affairs. Fraternally he is connected with Symerton Camp No. 4361, Modern Woodmen of America. In 1886 he married Miss

Christina Bouch, of Mokena, who was born in Manhattan Township. They had four children, Lester A., Roy, Lloyd and Merl. The oldest son, born September 1, 1887, died March 4, 1900; the youngest, born August 11, 1893, is the only one living; and the other sons died in infancy, while Mrs. Hilton passed away February 6, 1895.

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**H**ENRY T. TRUBY, the well-known grain and lumber dealer, is a son of the late Marshall Truby. His ancestors came to America as early as 1733, one of them, Christopher Truby, being an officer and patriot in the Revolutionary war. His father, Marshall, was born in Armstrong County, Pa., and was reared in the east, where for some time he was captain on Ohio and Allegheny River boats. With a fleet of packets, in 1852, he journeyed down the Ohio, up the Mississippi and the Illinois, thence to the canal, where he engaged in the forwarding business between Lasalle and Chicago, at the same time buying and improving a farm. In a few years he sold his boats and bought a tract of raw land adjoining the present city limits of Joliet, a portion of which is now included in Bush park. For some time he devoted his attention closely to the improvement of his property. During the war he resumed work on the canal, running a line of freight boats. He also made trips from Chicago to Nashville, Tenn., bearing government supplies to the front and delivering his cargoes each time in safety, although, owing to the proximity of the Confederates, it was necessary to be guarded by gunboats. When the war was ended he began in the grain business, having an elevator on the canal at South Bluff street. Adjoining the site of his elevator, he started a lumber yard, which he conducted successfully. In 1870 he removed to Birds Bridge, this county, to engage in the grain business, and he built an elevator there, making shipments of grain both by canal and railroad. He continued in business in that village from 1870 to 1897, and during

that entire time served as postmaster, also for some time held school offices and was a justice of the peace. In politics he was a Republican, but never exhibited a partisan spirit, believing that a true citizen rose above party in loyal devotion to country. The First Presbyterian Church of Joliet numbered him among its members. The success which he gained entitled him to respect. Without any means to aid him in securing a start, and with no influence to help him along except his own good name and upright conduct, with these and by untiring industry and intelligent management, he steadily rose until he occupied a position of marked consideration in business circles in Will County. If the title of self-made can with justice be given any man, it certainly belonged to him, for, against adverse circumstances, and in the face of obstacles, he had the energy and determination to attain a high degree of success. There was no detail of the grain business with which he was unfamiliar. Nor did that business represent the limit of his energies. He was also interested in the lumber business as a member of the firm of Truby & Co., and he maintained a supervision of his farm at Birds Bridge, seven miles west of Joliet. In addition, he was senior partner in the firm of M. Truby & Son, owners of elevators both at Joliet and Elwood. After seventy-seven useful and active years, he passed into eternity, July 26, 1897, followed to the grave by the respect of those with whom he had long been associated.

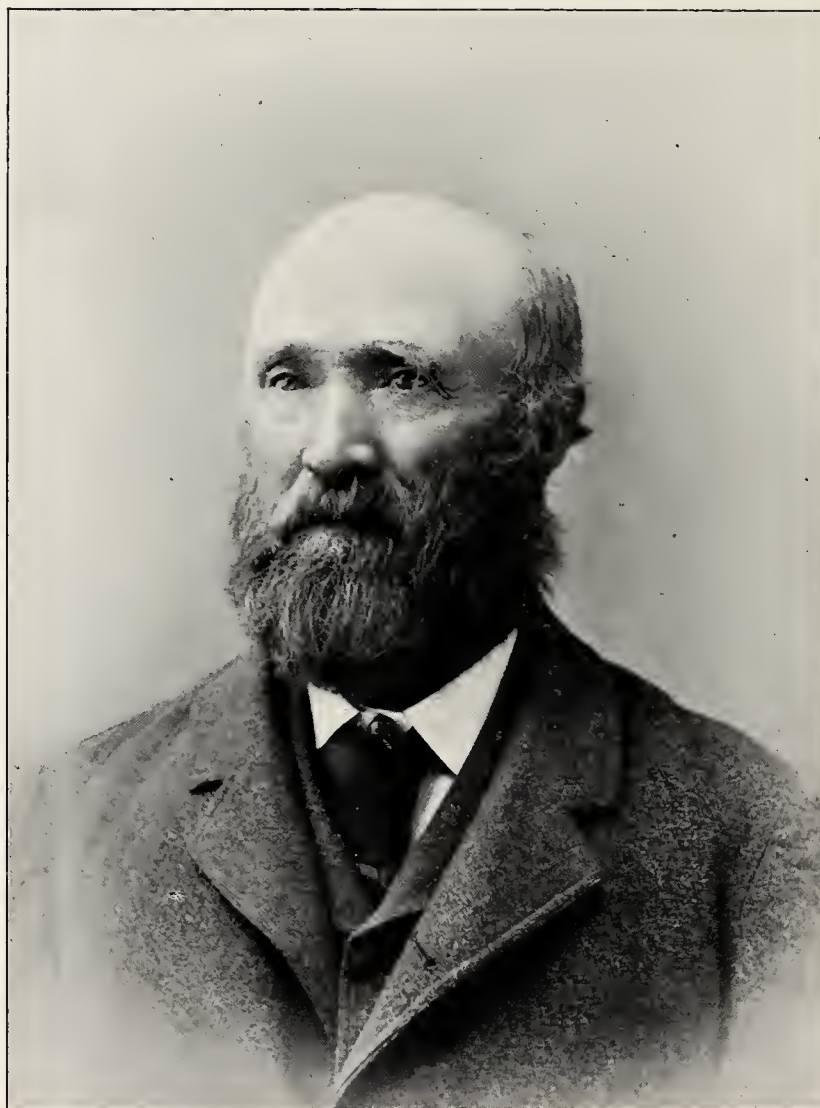
The marriage of Marshall Truby united him with Maria McCracken, who was born in Penn-

sylvania, and is still living at the old home at Birds Bridge, in Troy Township. The family to which she belongs came to America from the north of Ireland, but is of Scotch origin. In her family there are three daughters and a son living. The latter, who was next to the oldest of the children, was born in Joliet, September 12, 1852. He was educated in the schools of Joliet, Jennings Seminary of Aurora, and the Metropolitan Commercial College of Chicago. He then became a bookkeeper in his father's office. In 1875 the firm of M. Truby & Son embarked in the grain business. Five years later they bought the two Elwood elevators, taking J. C. Beattie as a partner, and in 1888 purchased the Jesse elevator in Joliet, the first-named having a capacity of forty thousand bushels, and the latter ten thousand. In 1891 Truby & Co. started a lumber business across from the elevator in Joliet, having two acres for yards and sheds, and building up a large trade in lumber and building material. Since the father's death the son, Henry T. Truby, has conducted the business with J. C. Beattie, selling both at wholesale and retail. Besides this business, he is interested, as a director, in the Will County Abstract Company.

Fraternally Mr. Truby is a member of the blue lodge of Masons and in politics he votes with the Republican party. He was united in marriage, in Channahon, with Miss Charlotte Beardsley Fryer, daughter of Hon. J. N. Fryer, an old settler of Channahon Township, where she was born. One son living, Charles L., blesses their union.







*John Daly*



## JOHN DALY.

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JOHN DALY, one of the old settlers of Lockport Township, stands high in the regard of his acquaintances, and deserves all that kind fortune can bestow. All that he has and all that he is may be attributed to his determination of character and his industry. When he came to this county a young man, without friends or means, he was glad to secure work at \$6 a month. From that small beginning he has worked his way to a competence and an assured position among the farmers and dairymen of his township.

A son of Edward and Lucinda Daly, our subject was born in 1825, and was nineteen years of age when he embarked for America on the sailing vessel "Lord Seaton." After a voyage of nine weeks he landed in New York, from which city he went by boat up the Hudson to Albany, then crossed New York state by rail to Buffalo, and from there came on the great lakes to Chicago, completing his journey by wagon to Will County. On his arrival in Lockport Township, in the latter part of 1844, he secured work by the month, and afterward for several years was employed at farming and teaming. For a time he was engaged in the construction of the Illinois and Michigan canal on the Lockport section. The lessons of frugality and industry acquired in his childhood helped him in this country, and he carefully saved his money until he was able to buy one hundred and twelve acres of timber land near his present location. However, he lacked a small sum of having enough to pay for the entire tract and was obliged to go in debt for

a part of the place. The land was in its primeval condition. He was forced to do considerable "grubbing" and clearing before he could commence its cultivation. He enclosed the land by good fences and built a small house. As he prospered, he bought other land, until he now owns nearly seven hundred acres. His dairy interests are extensive; he owns about fifty cows and ships milk to Chicago, having shipped to the same firm there for twenty-two years. His residence is a substantial stone building, the stone for which he hauled from Lockport on the canal when it was frozen over during the winter months. Beside his home property he owns a number of business houses in Lockport.

In April, 1849, Mr. Daly married Miss Julia Walker, who had come to Will County the year before their marriage. They became the parents of eight children, four of whom are living, Thomas, Margaret, Susan and Edward. Margaret married John McCoy, a farmer and dairyman in Lockport Township; they have six children: Julia, Susan, Matilda, Sadie, Edwin and Ellen. The younger daughter, Susan, is the wife of George Bush, who lives in Wayne, Neb.; they are the parents of four children, Julia, Georgiana, John and Lotta.

Thomas Daly, the older of Mr. Daly's surviving sons, is a prosperous farmer of Crawford County, Kans. He is an industrious, enterprising and intelligent farmer, and well merits the success he is gaining in his agricultural enterprises. While still a mere boy he began to save money, and this he afterward invested in land,

thus gaining a foothold for future prosperity. He married Margaret, daughter of Riley Ritchey, of Homer Township, and grand-daughter of James Ritchey, who came from Chillicothe, Ohio, to Illinois, at a very early day, and was living at Fort Dearborn at the time of the Blackhawk war. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Daly have six children now living, namely: John E., Susan M., Eva L., Cleveland R., Jessie and Thomas.

Edward Daly, the younger of our subject's sons, assists his father in the management of the home farm. He married Suella Bush, by whom he has three children, William, Clara and Prudence. Another son of our subject, David, was born and reared on the old Daly homestead, and married Sarah Kirman, by whom he had six children, Jennie, Julia, George E., Margaret, Grace and David. He was a member of the Episcopal Church, and in politics a Democrat. He was fond of military affairs, and was a member of the Joliet Light Artillery, with which he served under Colonel Bennitt in some of the noted strikes. Personally, he was genial and popular, a man with hosts of friends and many enemies. He died September 23, 1892.

The subject of this sketch was reared in the Presbyterian faith, and has always aided in its work, besides which he has contributed to the Episcopal Church in Lockport. The Democratic party receives his support in national elections, but in local matters he is independent. He has never desired office for himself, preferring to devote his time wholly to his farm and dairy interests.

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**A**NTHONY WAGNER, who is living retired in Joliet, has made his home in this county since 1846, having come here with his parents when he was a boy of twelve. He was born May 31, 1834, in Alsace, which was then a French province, but is now a part of Germany. His father, Ignatz, also of Alsacian birth, for many years ran a ferry across the Rhine River, but in 1846 emigrated to America, crossing the ocean

on the sailing-vessel "St. Nicholas," which was forty-six days upon the water. After a pleasant, but somewhat monotonous voyage he landed in New York. There he transferred to a Hudson River boat, in which he sailed up to Albany. From there he traveled via canal-boat to Buffalo and thence on the great lakes to Chicago. Pushing on to Naperville he spent a few months there, but in the fall of the same year he came to Joliet, securing employment on the Illinois and Michigan canal. Later he was engaged in farm work, buying some land which is now inside the city limits of Joliet. Prices were very low when he settled here, and he paid only \$30 for a log house and the entire block on which his son Anthony now lives, property that has since multiplied in value many hundredfold. On this place the remainder of his days were passed and here he died in 1883. He was a lifelong member of the Roman Catholic Church, in which faith his children were reared. After becoming a citizen of the United States he allied himself with the Democratic party. By his marriage to Mary Ann Erhardt he had four children who attained maturity, viz.: Mary; Ignatz, deceased; Anthony and Alois.

One of the most vivid recollections of our subject's childhood was the long journey by water from Havre to Chicago. He well remembers, too, the frontier surroundings in this city and county, the sparsely settled regions, the unimproved land and the log cabins. As soon as he was old enough to guide a plow he was put to work at breaking prairie land with an ox-team, and for some years much of his time was given to this occupation. When of age he learned the stone-cutter's trade, which he followed afterward, being for many years foreman in the large stone quarries owned by Charles Werner, of Joliet, from which position he resigned in 1888 and retired from active work. Politically he is a Democrat, was collector of Joliet Township in 1885 and again elected in 1886. Under the administration of Mayor E. C. Akin, 1895-1897, he was appointed to the office of superintendent of streets of the city of Joliet. That he was the "right man in the right place" was best proven by the



following administration of Mayor Lager, 1897-1899, again appointing him to this important position; as a Democrat, serving under two Republican mayors, he received indeed a well-earned compliment. He is also one of the few charter members left of the Joliet Sharpshooters Association, which was organized in 1866.

In 1860 he married Magdalene, daughter of Joseph Klein, of Strassburg, Cook County, Ill. Mrs. Magdalene (Klein) Wagner was also born in Alsace, and came to this country with her parents in 1846. By their union five children were born, namely: Joseph; Mary, wife of William Downey; Louise, wife of John Giblin; Rose and Emma.

**ERWIN GOODWIN.** In the pioneer history of this county the Goodwin family bore an honorable part. Of New England ancestry, inheriting the hardihood and powers of endurance characteristic of that race, later generations also exhibited these qualities and assisted in the development of the great west. From New Hampshire Joseph Goodwin removed to Lawrence County, N. Y., in a very early day, and his subsequent years were devoted to farm pursuits there. His son, William, who was born in that county in 1814, came to Illinois in 1837, settling in Will County. All around him were evidences of frontier life. Houses were few and poorly constructed, affording but little protection from wind and weather. His trade was that of a carpenter and, seeing the need of more substantial dwellings, he was careful in the construction of the houses that he built, endeavoring to make them comfortable abodes. In those days land was owned by the government and was offered for sale at prices within the reach of the poorest man. He bought land in Wesley Township, receiving a patent from the government for the same. The remainder of his life was spent in this township, where he owned about five hundred acres. His beginnings were small, but industry gave him returns, and as he was a hard-working man, he

became very successful in age. His excellent judgment and common sense did much for him, and he was honored and respected as a man of worth.

In his youth he had received no educational advantages, yet, in spite of this, he became well-to-do. The primitive log schoolhouse was the university that he attended when a boy; its slab benches and puncheon floor were in marked contrast to the modern appurtenances with which we are familiar; and its teachers were of a grade far inferior to those of the present age. However, in the great school of experience he gained a good education, and who shall say that it was less valuable to him than one acquired from textbooks. He believed that every citizen should take an interest in local affairs, and what he expected of others he was foremost in doing himself. Politically he was a pronounced Republican. Fraternally he was connected with the Masons. After forty years of intimate connection with the farm interests of Wesley Township, in 1877 he was called from earth. His sixty-three years of life had been filled with deeds of generosity and kindness, and his record was that of a good man. He married Margaret Rebecca Althouse, a native of Virginia, who died at the homestead in 1868, at the age of forty-six years. They were the parents of nine children, six of whom are living, namely: Hiram, a resident of Wilmington Township; Dollie, wife of William H. Cramer; Erwin; John, who cultivates the old home place; William, a farmer near by; and Philip, whose home is in Oregon.

On the homestead opposite his present farm the subject of this sketch was born February 24, 1854. His father having been successful as a farmer was able to give him good advantages, and he attended the public schools of Chicago and Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College. On the completion of his education he settled down to a farmer's life; but soon, with a desire for travel and contact with the world, he determined to travel in the far west. He was twenty-one when he went to Colorado and from there to the Pacific Coast. After four years he returned to Will County, where he has since remained. He

now owns two hundred and forty acres of fine land and is engaged in farming and cattle-raising. In 1898 he caused to be built on his place one of the most substantial farm houses in the township, and here, with his wife, he has a comfortable and happy home. He has never cared for political prominence, and, aside from voting the Republican ticket, takes no part in local affairs. Fraternally he is connected with Wilmington Lodge No. 208, A. F. & A. M. His marriage took place May 24, 1899, and united him with Clara E. Hanford, daughter of Stephen Hanford, of Kankakee County.

**JOHN LAMBERT.** The name of Mr. Lambert is indissolubly associated with the growth and development of the wire industry, with which he has been connected since it was in its infancy. He is therefore justly recognized as one of the foremost men of Joliet and it may be doubted if the city has any citizen more remarkable, in many respects, than he.

The Lambert family were among the early settlers of Hunterdon County, N. J., and the now thriving city of Lambertville was named in their honor. Mr. Lambert was born in that place January 12, 1847. He was a mere lad when the Civil war opened, but, fired with a love of adventure and a patriotic zeal in behalf of the nation, he determined to enlist in the Union army. In January, 1862, his name was enrolled as a private in Company D, First New Jersey Cavalry. He was sent with his regiment to Virginia, but after a year, owing to ill health, was honorably discharged. Later he again volunteered in the service, becoming sergeant of Company A, Third New Jersey Cavalry, in which he remained until the close of the war. Under General Custer he participated in the Shenandoah campaign of 1864, including the battles around Winchester and terminating in the splendid victory at Cedar Creek, the occasion of General Sheridan's famous ride "From Winchester Twenty Miles Away." In 1865 he took

part in the battles of Waynesboro, Ashland, Dinwiddie Courthouse and Five Forks. In the latter engagement he was wounded by a fragment of a shell, causing the loss of a part of his left hand. He also had his horse shot from under him. After this he bore a part in all the battles under General Grant until the surrender of General Lee. He was present at the grand review in Washington, D. C., and was one of four men of his company who at the time were able to perform duty, out of the original number of one hundred and one. He received an honorable discharge from the army August 9, 1865.

Two years after the close of the war Mr. Lambert came to Illinois and settled in Grundy County. The year 1870 found him a resident of Joliet, where he has since made his home. He was for six years an officer in the Illinois state penitentiary. In April, 1876, he married Miss M. E. Bishop, of Joliet. They have one child, Anna E.

A few years after coming to Joliet, Mr. Lambert had his attention drawn to the wire business, a careful study of which convinced him of its wonderful possibilities of growth and development. In 1879 he became a member of the Lambert & Bishop Wire Fence Company, which from the first enjoyed steady growth and soon became well known among similar organizations. In 1892 this was merged with the St. Louis Wire Mill Company, the Braddock Wire Company and the Iowa Barb Wire Company, forming the Consolidated Steel and Wire Company. On the election of officers for the company he was chosen vice-president and later was also made general manager. When the American Steel & Wire Company began its corporate existence, January 1, 1899, he was elected president, a position of great responsibility and influence, and one for which his talents amply qualified him. It was due to his business foresight and capacity, coupled with fine executive ability, that he attained a place among the controlling spirits of one of the largest and most successful manufacturing industries in the country. He has given his attention very closely to business, refusing all invitations to participate in public



affairs and all appointments to office, the sole exception being in one instance, when he accepted an appointment as colonel on the staff of Governor Tanner.

His notable achievements in the field of commercial endeavor have made his name a synonym of success. He is an accurate judge of men, his naturally keen insight having been deepened by his varied experiences in life, which have brought him in contact with men of all classes. His business career has been marked by the exercise of unusually keen discrimination. Perhaps the two traits most noticeable in his business dealings are his excellent judgment and his energy. In fact, his enterprise and ability are of such a character that death alone can terminate his activities. His ready wit and command of language fit him for a public speaker, and had he chosen to enter the political arena he would have been a power in his party, but his addresses have always been limited to industrial topics, along which line he has been most deeply interested; and these speeches are especially valuable, as representing the thoughts and ideas of a man whose brain is stored with practical information, accumulated during a long and active business career.

**M**ESHACK DANDO, who is engaged in the insurance, real-estate and conveyance business at Braidwood, was born in Bristol, England, in 1847, a son of Jeremiah Dando, a native of the same city. Under the instruction of his father, who was a practical coal miner, he gained a thorough knowledge of mining, when he was only fifteen years old. He then left home and went to the coal mines in Monmouthshire, Wales, where he was employed for two years. In 1865 he set sail for America, crossing from Liverpool to New York, and thence going to Pittston, Pa., where he secured work in the mines. In December, 1866, he went to Newburyport, Mass. Three months later he came west. He dates his residence in Will County

from February, 1867. At that time he began to work in the old Cady mine near Wilmington, remaining there during the summer. In the fall of the same year he came to Braidwood, then a new mining camp. His first work here was in "B" shaft. From that time until 1874 he was engaged principally in mining. In 1874 he was elected city clerk of Braidwood, being the second incumbent of that office, and serving for two years. To fill an unexpired term, caused by the election of Justice William Mooney to the legislature, he was elected justice of the peace in the spring of 1875, and this commission he held until 1877. From that time until 1885 he served as police magistrate. Later he was again elected to that office and was again chosen to serve as justice of the peace, which he filled for a period, altogether, of more than twenty years. It was partly due to his efforts that the city library was started and the cataloguing of the books was conducted under his personal supervision; he has since acted as a director of the Library Association and was for years clerk of the board. In every enterprise for the benefit of his home town he has taken a warm interest. The growth of Braidwood interests all of its citizens and none more so than those who have been identified with its history ever since its pioneer days as a mining camp. To this class Mr. Dando belongs. A respected citizen, a stanch Populist, and a man of firm convictions upon matters pertaining to our national welfare, he is a fine representative of our foreign-born citizens, who are true and loyal to their adopted country. In 1877 he assisted in organizing the Greenback party in this county, but when the People's party sprang up he transferred his allegiance to it, for its principles accurately represented his views. He was at one time the Populist candidate for the legislature, but was defeated.

In a number of fraternal organizations Mr. Dando has been active. He was among the charter members of the Lodge of Foresters in Braidwood and several times was elected chief ranger; also served as delegate to the subsidiary high court at St. Louis, Boston and Providence, R. I. He was the first vice-commander of the

Knights of Sherwood Forest, which was organized at Providence. As a charter member he took an active part in the organization of the Sons of St. George at Braidwood, which he served as president a number of terms. For several years he held office as secretary of the Miners' Union. In other labor organizations he has also been quite active. In 1868 he married Miss Martha Swansboro, a native of South Wales. She died in 1883, leaving five children, viz.: William J.; Hattie, wife of George Milner; Ada, Thomas and Albert. The oldest and youngest sons are both employed in Joliet.

ANTON SCHAGER was born in Chicago, August 22, 1858, a son of Anton and Elizabeth (Hagemann) Schager. He was the eldest of twelve children, of whom five beside himself are now living. Rose M. resides with her mother at Ravenswood, Chicago. Julia F., who also makes her home in Ravenswood, is the widow of George L. Schintz, who was the youngest man ever elected to the office of district attorney in Langlade County, Wis., and was also prominent in the public life of his home town (Appleton, Wis). Hattie M. is the wife of M. S. Sanders, who is chief clerk and financial manager for Crerar, Clinch & Co., with office in the Rookery building, Chicago, and who previously held the position of chief clerk with the Illinois Steel Company in Joliet. Lillie F. married George E. Stevens, a commercial salesman for the McLaughlin Coffee Company of Chicago; they reside in Janesville, Wis. Edward J., who was for some time a collector for the Joliet National Bank, is now with the Kirk Soap Company in Chicago, and resides with his mother.

The father of our subject was born in Austria in 1832, and came to America in 1850. It was customary for youths who preferred business enterprise to army service to secure permission to do a traveling mercantile business, and thus, by traveling from one country to another, to finally

reach their destination without the use of a passport. In this way he reached the United States. Here he resumed his work as a traveling merchant, and sold in the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois, finally settling in Chicago. October 15, 1857, he married Miss Hagemann. Soon afterward he opened a dry-goods store in partnership with his father-in-law on South Canal street, where he remained until the year before the great Chicago fire. By previous experience as a clerk with leading mercantile firms he had gained a thorough knowledge of the business and a wide acquaintance with merchants. In 1870 he built a business house on the corner of Halsted and Forquer streets, and in connection with the sale of dry-goods also operated a large knitting factory. After the fire his was the largest dry-goods house, wholesale or retail, in the city. The close attention given to his knitting factory interests undermined his health through the inhaling of dust that constantly filled the knitting rooms. A change of business was thus rendered necessary. He associated himself with the Kraker Stone Company of Joliet, and in this way he was induced to establish his home here. He also engaged in the dry-goods business, though on a smaller scale than when in Chicago. However, his health continued to fail and he died in January, 1894. In politics he was an ardent Democrat. While in Chicago he was a very prominent member of St. Francis' Catholic Church on West Twelfth street, in which he served as president of various societies. For some years he was a director of the German Catholic orphans' home, the property of which he assisted in purchasing. He was a director of the Home Insurance Company, the Germania Bank, and the Teutonia Life Insurance Company of Chicago.

The mother of our subject was born in one of the ancient fortresses near Koblenz on the Rhine, February 2, 1839. She was a daughter of Anton and Gertrude Hagemann, who came to America in 1846 and settled in Chicago, where for years Mr. Hagemann was a mill watchman. One of the sons of the family, Hubert A. Hagemann, recently deceased, was treasurer of the seventh



ward Democratic club, and a leading Democrat of that part of Chicago. Another son, Joseph A. Hagemann, volunteered in the Civil war, and served under Hecker, Siegel and Rosecrans. At Gettysburg he was wounded and taken prisoner, but afterward exchanged. He now lives at Hanceville, Ala., on a farm, but has never recovered from the effects of his wounds, and is in very poor health. Mrs. Schager survives her husband and now makes her home in Ravenswood.

The primary education of our subject was obtained in St. Francis German Catholic school. At the age of twelve he entered St. Ignatius College, from which he graduated in 1876. One of his classmates and particular friends was the well-known Judge Prendergast, now deceased. After his graduation he devoted his time to his father's business until 1887, when he was appointed store keeper of the Illinois state penitentiary at Joliet, taking charge of the office January 1, 1888. Notwithstanding the fact that he was Democratic in politics, and was the only representative of that party holding office in this institution, he retained the position for three years and seven months. Shortly before he resigned he was married, October 22, 1890, to Miss Celia M. Stanton, daughter of Nicholas Stanton, a well-known business man of Joliet. They have three children, Leo A., Anton J. and Cecilia M. Mrs. Schager has been prominent in musical societies. She is leading soprano and assistant organist in St. Mary's Church, and at one time was organist in the old church. She was the first organist at Sacred Heart Church of Joliet, and filled the position for six years, Mr. Schager, our subject, being director of her choir the greater part of the time.

In 1891 Mr. Schager embarked in the insurance business. He also gave considerable attention to expert accounting, in which he gained a reputation. May 19, 1894, he was appointed assistant postmaster, which position he held until September, 1898, and then resumed his insurance business, being general agent for the Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia, and the health department of the Security Trust and

Life Insurance Company of the same city. He also settled up the affairs of the Rauff soda factory and bottling works after the death of the proprietor, putting the business in a profitable condition.

When twelve years of age Mr. Schager became a member of St. Aloysius Young Men's Society of St. Francis Church, Chicago. Later he was secretary of the Acolythical Society of the Holy Family Church, better known as the Jesuit Church. At college he was secretary of the Chrysostomian debating society and college athletic club, also assistant prefect of the college sodality. He was a charter member and one of the first trustees of St. Stanislaus Young Men's Benevolent Society, organized in St. Francis' parish in 1873, and which is now the largest, oldest and most influential young men's benevolent society in the United States. During eight of the twelve years he was connected with this organization he served as its president, and for a short time also held the secretary's office. He was for five years director of the dramatic section in connection with the association, and was for fifteen years a prominent member of the Catholic Casino of Chicago, through which he obtained his well-earned reputation as one of the best and most prominent tenors of Chicago. He made his debut as choir director at the church of the Sacred Heart in Chicago, having been appointed to that position by the great Jesuit missionary, Father Damen, and his worthy successor, Rev. Bronsgeest, S. J. On his removal to Joliet in 1885 he resigned the presidency of the society.

When he came to Joliet Mr. Schager joined the Joliet Saengerbund and the St. Alois branch of the *Western Catholic Union*. A year later he was elected vice-president of the Saengerbund, and in December, 1889, was made president, which office he held until September, 1892. He is now secretary, and for three years has been the musical director of the society. At a local gathering of singing associations in Lincoln, Ill., in 1890, he offered a resolution that a state society be formed. It was acted upon, and the Central Illinois Saengerbund sprang into existence, with him as its president. He continued to hold the

office during the existence of the society, but was obliged by official duties to withdraw from active management when he entered the post-office, to the detriment of the society, its members refusing to elect another man to the presidency. He was a charter member of the Orpheus Glee Club, organized July 1, 1886, by our subject, Charles H. Talcott, Gallus Mueller, William Dingley, Joseph B. Hudson, Edward Demond, W. J. Carter and Louis H. Hyde. A permanent organization was effected six days later, with the additional names of John B. Richmond, George F. Knapp, Dr. O. H. Staehle and R. W. Grinton. From 1887 to 1890 Mr. Schager was secretary of the club. In 1897 the Joliet Glee Club was organized, which later was consolidated with the Joliet Banjo Club, and is now known as the Joliet Glee and Banjo Club. At the organization he was made director, a position he has since held. For one year he was musical director of St. Patrick's Church choir. In August, 1898, he accepted the charge of St. Mary's Church choir. November 21, 1899, he assisted in organizing the Steel Works Choral Society, at the request of the superintendent, F. M. Savage, and was made its director. For ten successive years he has been a Joliet representative in the conventions of the *Western Catholic Union*. In 1893 he was elected supreme vice-president at Mount Sterling, Ill., and the next year was re-elected at Aurora, also at Springfield in 1895. In 1896, at Quincy, Ill., he was nominated by acclamation for a fourth term in the same office, but declined in favor of Joseph Braun, Jr., of Joliet. At the Aurora convention in 1894 he proposed the reserve fund plan, submitted by the Joliet delegation, which has since proved the strongest feature of the *Western Catholic Union*. For three years he was president of St. Alois Society, and immediately afterwards was made chairman of the board of trustees of said society, an office which he has since held. As a musical director it is the testimony of the men in Joliet who are most familiar with his work that he has few equals. He throws his whole soul into his work, and has the faculty of arousing the enthusiasm of those whom he leads, while at

the same time he develops to the fullest extent their native powers of song. He tolerates no half-hearted efforts, but is satisfied only with the best, either in himself or in others; and it is this very quality of his,—the demanding of the highest and best from every one—that has made him so prominent and successful a figure in the musical and social circles of northeastern and central Illinois. In politics he is a quiet, conservative Democrat, and always in favor of the best obtainable form of government, being a firm believer in the almost vanished maxim that the office shall seek the man, rather than the contrary.

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JESSE BARRETT BROWN, alderman from the seventh ward of Joliet, is a member of the firm of Brown & Bell, boiler-makers, at No. 107 Ottawa street. In its special line the firm is one of the best-known in this section of the state. Among the boilers for which it has held contracts are those made for the Joliet Manufacturing and Joliet Limestone Companies, Western Stone Company, American Steel and Wire Company, Baker, Eriksson, Globe, Porter, Pioneer and Rowell Brothers Stone Companies; Selz, Schwab & Co., at the state penitentiary; Union Steam Laundry and C. Hacker Company; besides which, the firm has received contracts for boilers at Coal City, Braidwood, Nevada, Chicago Heights, Wilmington, Lockport, and many other Illinois towns, as well as some in Indiana and other states.

The family of which Mr. Brown is a member was early represented in New England. His great-grandfather, a native of Vermont, removed to Ontario, where the grandfather engaged in farming. The father, Calvin, was born in Ontario and there learned the carpenter's trade, but after his marriage, in 1852, he and his wife's relatives moved to Illinois, settling near Elwood, in Jackson Township, this county, where he engaged in sawmilling. Returning to Canada he soon became homesick for Illinois and in a year



came back to Will County. He settled in Joliet, where he followed the carpenter's trade until his death in 1893. His wife, Nancy Ann Barrett, was born in Ontario and lives in Joliet. They were the parents of three sons and one daughter, the latter deceased. One son, William R., resides at Marley, this county, and another, Franklin K., is a carpenter for Humphrey & Sons, of Joliet. Mrs. Brown was a daughter of Jesse Barrett, a native of Ontario, who settled in Jackson Township in 1852 and from here removed to Howard County, Iowa. He worked at the carpenter's trade there until he was accidentally killed by the running away of a team. His wife was a member of the old Canadian family of Boyce, that traced its ancestry to Great Britain.

Born in this county, May 31, 1854, Mr. Brown was an infant of six months when his parents returned to Canada, but one year later they came back to Illinois and he was reared in Joliet, although he has made frequent visits to Canada. He learned the brickmaker's trade at the Joliet Mound, where he was employed for six years. In 1878 he entered the boiler department of what is now the Illinois Steel Company and under James G. Heggie learned boiler making, continuing with the company for ten years. At the expiration of that time he resigned in order to embark in business for himself, organizing the firm of Brown & Heggie, which for two years carried on business at the old Murphy boiler works on Michigan street. From there they removed to a new shop on North Joliet street, where they continued for two years. Mr. Brown then sold his interest to his partner and organized the present firm of Brown & Bell, starting in business at the location where he has since remained.

The first wife of Mr. Brown was Bertha E. Johnson, who was born in Schleswig-Holstein and died in Joliet, leaving three children: Charles, who is a boiler-maker with the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad; Jennie, who clerks for the Joliet Novelty Company; and Miles. The present wife of Mr. Brown was Sarah Kirkham, a native of England, and a daughter of Harry Kirkham, who was formerly head foundryman

for the Illinois Steel Company. The family are identified with the Richards Street Methodist Episcopal Church.

In politics Mr. Brown favors Republican principles. In the spring of 1899, on the Republican ticket, he was elected alderman by the highest majority ever received in the seventh ward. As councilman he has been active in measures for the benefit of the city, and has served efficiently as chairman of the committee on streets and alleys of the east side and as a member of the fire committee.

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**THOMAS STEVENSON.** While his position as chief grain inspector for the Joliet district has given Mr. Stevenson a prominent position in Joliet, he is perhaps even better known through his connection with fraternal organizations, and his name is inseparably associated with certain well-known orders. He is a native of Scotland, born in Glasgow, March 7, 1857. The number 7, which occurs both in the day and the year of his birth, has been the mystic number in many of the important events of his life. His given name was also borne by his ancestors for several generations back. His father, who was a contractor, for years belonged to the Forty-second Highlanders, with which he served through the entire period of the Crimean war and also during the Sepoy rebellion in India. He married Isabelle Barr, whose father, Allen Barr, was a member of the Scots Grays and took part in the battle of Waterloo. Mr. Stevenson died in 1867, at the age of forty-five years, and afterward his widow brought the children to America, arriving in this country in September, 1869. She died in February, 1897, when seventy-one years of age. Of her family one daughter died in infancy and John died at the age of forty-one years; Isabella, Mrs. Cherry, lives in Grundy County, Ill.; and Allen resides in Kansas.

It may be said truthfully of Mr. Stevenson that he is a self-made man. He has supported himself since he was ten years of age, and the education he acquired was gained solely through

his own efforts. He is very fond of reading, and this has greatly aided him in the acquisition of knowledge. From time to time he has purchased books of value bearing upon general topics of interest, and he now has a good library, which is a source of much satisfaction to him. Upon coming to this county he was engaged in the Braidwood coal mines. He continued there until after his marriage, when he opened a book and stationery store in that town. On being appointed first deputy sheriff, in 1887, he removed to Joliet, and has since made this city his home. While living in Braidwood he was nominated for town clerk without his knowledge or seeking, he having never, up to that time, attended a political meeting. He was elected and filled the office for three years. For two years he was a member of the board of education and for three years served as assessor of Reed Township. After coming to Joliet he was in the sheriff's office for four years. He was appointed to his present office of state grain inspector April 7, 1897, and was re-appointed two years later.

As above intimated, Mr. Stevenson is deeply interested in fraternal organizations. He has been a member of the Knights of Pythias since July 3, 1878, and on that night was elected keeper of records and seals. At that time there were but about two thousand members in the state. During his connection with the order it has increased from that small number to its present membership of about forty-five thousand. Since 1880 he has been a member of the grand lodge, in which he has filled the more important offices. For a number of years he was general traveling organizer in several states. In 1879 he joined the local lodge of Odd Fellows. He is a member of Stevenson Camp No. 2892, Modern Woodmen of America, which was named in his honor. For some years he has been a member of the head camp, and attended the meeting of the same in Dubuque in June, 1897. At that time he was promoted from a membership to the chairmanship of the committee on offices and salaries, and is also a member of the committee on grievances. In Masonry he is connected with Mount Joliet Lodge No. 42, A. F. & A. M.; Joliet Chap-

ter No. 27, R. A. M.; and Joliet Council No. 82, R. & S. M. In 1899 he was one of the organizers and the originator of the new order for fraternal insurance, the Order of the White Cross. The plan is a progressive one in fraternal insurance, providing a reserve fund, and making it much more reliable in the end than the generality of mutual insurance projects. With the assistance of Coll McNaughton and John Garnsey he prepared the charter and ritual of the order, in which he now holds the office of Supreme Recorder. From early manhood he has been an adherent of the Republican party, and has been a delegate to county and state conventions.

Mr. Stevenson erected the house which he occupies, at No. 116 Linden avenue. March 27, 1880, he married Emma Oliver, who was born near Mineral Point, Wis. They have five children: Thomas B., Emma L., Evan Charles, Evelyn and May.

**O**SCAR SVENSON, who is one of the well-known Swedish-American citizens of Joliet, came to the United States in May, 1887, and at once settled in the city where he still resides. For a year he was employed at carpentering, after which he was a wood turner for F. W. Plant, with whom he continued until December, 1894. He then accepted an appointment as clerk in the office of the county clerk, under W. F. Hutchinson, and this position he has since filled satisfactorily, having for his principal duties the recording and keeping of accounts for the county supervisors. In 1891 he built a house at No. 1001 South Desplaines street and in 1899 erected a residence on the adjoining lot, both of which properties he still owns.

Carl Johan Alfred Svenson, our subject's father, was a wood turner by trade, but after some years at the occupation he turned his attention to merchandising, and this business he followed until his death at Oskarshamn, Smaland, Sweden, when fifty-seven years of age. He married Christine Danielson, whose father owned the



farm, "Grimholt," in Fliserudsaken, and whose death occurred at seventy-three years. Both were strict members of the Lutheran Church. They had two children: Carl Oscar and Emily Olivia, the latter still living in Sweden. Samuel Svenson, grandfather of our subject, was an architect and builder and superintended the erection of many of the principal buildings in his locality.

In Oskarshamn, Sweden, the subject of this sketch was born April 3, 1857, and there he received a grammar and high-school education. Upon the completion of his studies he learned the trade of block making and turning under his father, for whom he afterward clerked in the store for four years. His next work was with a bus and stage line. He was successful in his enterprises and accumulated a neat property. He built a handsome residence in Oskarshamn, which he and his sister still own. About the same time he erected the King Oscar hotel, which is the leading hotel in Oskarshamn, and this he first rented, but later sold. While his interests are now mostly in America, he has never ceased to hold his native land in fond recollection, and often, in thought and in conversation with his countrymen, recurs to incidents of his youth in his home beyond the seas. He is a member of the Swedish Republican Club and the Swedish Free Congregational Church, in the latter of which he has served as trustee.

The marriage of Mr. Svenson took place in Joliet December 1, 1888, and united him with Mrs. Ida Charlotte (Jacobson) Hedlund, who was born in Skaraborglaen, Westerjotland, Sweden, and was one of six children, three still living: August V., of Joliet; Ludvig, of South Center, Kans.; and Mrs. Ida Svenson. Their father, Anders Jacobson, owned the farm, "Valby." During the Civil war he came to America and enlisted in a Pennsylvania regiment which saw much active service at the front. After his enlistment nothing was ever heard of him, but without doubt he fell in one of the early battles of the war. His wife, who is now living in Joliet, was Britta Marie, daughter of Andres Anderson, a farmer who owned "Oja." In 1884 Mrs. Sven-

son came to America, settling in Joliet, where her first husband, Carl Hedlund, died, leaving two children, Aaron and Arthur Hedlund. By her second marriage four children have been born, viz.: C. Oscar, Jr., Emily Olivia, Knut Ahlvin and Esther Victoria.

**H**ENRY LESER, brewmaster and superintendent of E. Porter Brewing Co.'s Eagle brewery in Joliet, was born in Lahr, Baden, Germany, February 28, 1854, a son of Jacob L. and Charlotte (Zuker) Leser, and grandson of John Leser (a manufacturer of fire hose) and Christian Zuker (a gardener). He was one of two sons and two daughters comprising the family, his brother being Jacob Leser, a lithographer in Chicago. His education was received in the gymnasium in his native town. When eighteen years of age he entered the army and served in the artillery as corporal for three years. After receiving an honorable discharge he learned the brewer's trade at Offenburg, Baden, and later traveled as a journeyman in Switzerland as well as in Baden and Wurtemberg. For some years he was employed as brewmaster with a large brewing firm in Baden.

Coming to America in 1885, Mr. Leser worked at his trade in New York, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Sedalia and Kansas City, being brewmaster in Hines' brewery in the last-named city. In March, 1888, he came to Joliet as a brewmaster of the Eagle brewery, which position he has since filled with great success. At the time he accepted the position the company sold only about eight thousand barrels, but their sales now reach more than thirty-two thousand barrels a year, this large increase being almost wholly due to his energetic management. At the time of the incorporation of the E. Porter Brewing Co., in 1893, he became a stockholder, and was made superintendent of the brewery, which now ranks as among the largest in the state. The products manufactured include a good quality of Winer,

lager, ale and porter. He is a member of the Brewmasters' Verein of the United States, also belongs to the Saengerbund and the Sharpshooters Association of Joliet. Politically he is a Democrat.

While in St. Louis, Mo., Mr. Leser married Miss Maria Schleret, who was born in Wurtzburg, Bavaria, Germany, and by whom he has four children, Henry, William, Lottie and Bertha.

**G**EORGE A. BUCK. After years of industrious application to agricultural pursuits, Mr. Buck retired from his farm and established his home in Joliet, where he has resided since 1883. When he came to this county, in June, 1857, he bought a tract of unimproved land in section 17, Manhattan Township. Building a home, he began the task of clearing and cultivating his property. He became the owner of many hundred acres, and at one time fenced and controlled more than three thousand acres, of which he personally owned over eighteen hundred acres. At first he made a specialty of wheat, but later turned his attention to corn, and often raised large crops of this product. For years he was extensively engaged in raising sheep and cattle, and on his place he had a number of high-grade Durhams. The improvements on his homestead were first-class, and included a splendid residence erected at a cost of \$7,000, which has since been destroyed by fire. In 1880 the Wabash Railroad was built through his farm, and cut off forty acres of the same. A portion of the village of Manhattan lies on the property he once owned. He sold his farm in 1890.

Mr. Buck was born in Lanesborough, Berkshire County, Mass., September 10, 1829, a son of Hon. Asahel and Sophia (Mason) Buck, natives of Cheshire, Mass. The family of which he was a member comprised four daughters and two sons, namely: Achsah G. and Sarah H., who died at the ages of sixteen and twenty-two years; George A.; Mrs. Harriet Linn, of Joliet; Truman

T., of Omaha; and Laura M., Mrs. Cole, who died in Poultney, Vt., at the age of twenty-nine. The father was a son of Asahel Buck, Sr., a soldier in the war of 1812 and a farmer in Massachusetts. Hon. Asahel Buck was a man of local prominence and active in the Democratic party. Both in the house of representatives and the senate of Massachusetts he rendered efficient service to his fellow-citizens, and he was a member of the constitutional convention of that state. In religion he was a Baptist. He died in Poultney, Vt., August 19, 1880, at the age of seventy-eight years. His wife, who was a daughter of Silas Mason, a carpenter and builder in Berkshire County, died in Poultney, Vt., April 30, 1891, at the age of eighty-eight years.

Until twenty-three years of age our subject remained in his native town, and afterward for a time clerked in Cheshire. In October, 1856, he settled in Waukegan, Ill., where he clerked a few months, coming from there to Will County the following year and buying section 17, near Manhattan village. In the years that followed he became recognized as one of the most prosperous and enterprising farmers of the county. He held a number of public offices, including those of township clerk, township treasurer and township supervisor, holding the last-named office for six years. During almost the entire period of his residence in the township he served as school director. Politically he is a gold Democrat.

Prior to his removal from Massachusetts Mr. Buck married Miss Helen Wolcott, who was born in Cheshire, Mass., and died in Waukegan, Ill., April 16, 1857. She was a daughter of Russell B. Wolcott, member of an old family of Cheshire and by occupation a farmer. The second marriage of Mr. Buck took place in Joliet March 22, 1859, and united him with Miss Sarah H. Baker, who was born in Hoosick, Reusselaer County, N. Y., October 20, 1836. She was one of eight children, the others being Julia E., of Evanston; Norman J., who died in California; Mrs. Mary S. Barnes, of Joliet; Gibson S., who died at two months; Clark M., who resides in Manhattan; Mrs. Elizabeth E. Fisk, of Evanston; and Gideon, who is in Kansas.



The father of Mrs. Buck, Jirah E. Baker, a native of Hoosick, was a son of Jirah, Sr., who was born in Rhode Island and spent his last years on a farm near Hoosick. His father, Benjamin, a native of England, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war and died before its close, of disease contracted in the army. With him in the service were his two oldest sons. Jirah E. Baker removed west in 1856, joining his brother, Clark, who had settled in Manhattan, Ill., in 1848. Soon afterward he removed to Arkansas and died there. The mother of Mrs. Buck bore the maiden name of Almira Gifford and was born near Hoosick, N. Y., her father, Gideon Gifford, having removed there from Connecticut. She died in Chicago at an advanced age.

Of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Buck we note the following: Helen C. is the wife of John Cackle, of York County, Neb.; Josephine, who was born May 8, 1861, died at five years; Sophia M. was born November 28, 1862, and died in October, 1865; Laura C., Mrs. Tenny, lives in Milwaukee, Wis.; George A., Jr., was born June 22, 1867, and died June 3, 1870; Werden is engaged in the grocery business in Joliet; Jennie T. is the wife of Arthur Baldwin, of Joliet; Kate F. married Prof. O. L. Manchester, of Normal, Ill., and died April 11, 1892, when less than twenty years of age; Paul Revere was born November 12, 1875, and died March 22, 1877; Fred A. was born May 7, 1877, and died December 16, 1889; and Lucy Mason, the youngest of the family, was born February 19, 1882.

**J**AMES E. NEWKIRK. The genealogy of the Newkirk family is traced to a very early period in the settlement of Virginia, and its representatives were associated with many events of importance in colonial history, holding a high position among the F. F. V.'s and contributing to the prosperity which the Old Dominion long enjoyed. The great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch was Jacob Newkirk, a native of Pennsylvania, born about the year 1758. He served

during the Revolutionary war. In an early day he moved to Kentucky, settling on a farm in Jefferson County. There he died, of pneumonia, February 16, 1815. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Stumpf, was born in Pennsylvania in 1760 and died in Jefferson County, Ky., in 1853.

The grandfather of our subject, Jacob Newkirk, Jr., was born in Little York, Pa., in 1787, and became a successful farmer of Jefferson County, Ky. When the second war with England was declared he received a commission as colonel in the American army and served with distinction, assisting in securing the freedom of the sea for our country. After the war he returned to his plantation nine miles south of Louisville, and there he continued to reside until his death, February 14, 1878. He was one of a family of eight, the others being Elias, Samuel, Elizabeth, Daniel, Annie, Margaret and Catherine. His marriage united him with Miss Mary W. Young, of Jefferson County.

Richard Newkirk, the father of our subject, was born on the Kentucky homestead and spent his boyhood there. Before he had attained his majority he started out for himself, going to Chicago in 1833 and remaining there, with the exception of a short sojourn in Indianapolis, for some years. In company with Stephen Clevley he came to Lockport and located on a farm in the Yankee settlement (now Homer Township), but after a time went to M. H. Demmond's farm in Joliet Township. Next he assisted in the construction of the canal and later bought a farm adjoining Joliet. In 1870 he settled in Houston, Tex., and from there moved to Columbus, Colorado County, the same state, where he carried on a meat business for seventeen years. Returning to Joliet, he spent a short time with his son, James E., but finally, in 1897, went back to the Kentucky homestead where he was born. There he died in March, 1899, when seventy-nine years of age.

The wife of Richard Newkirk was Charlotte Nokes, a native of Essex, England, whence she came to America with her father, Thomas Nokes, one of the early settlers of Lockport. With Mr.

Newkirk, Mr. Nokes hauled material from Chicago to Morris, Ottawa, LaSalle and Marseilles before the canal was operated, using ox-teams for that purpose. In later years, while engaged in threshing, his arm was accidentally taken off and blood-poisoning set in, which proved fatal. Mrs. Newkirk died at Joliet Township in 1879. Of her ten children all but one attained mature years and seven are living. The sons and daughters were named as follows: Henry, who died in Joliet in 1897; Jacob, who was accidentally killed at nine years of age; Fred, who was twenty-eight at the time of his death in Joliet; Frank E., whose sketch is presented in this work; James E.; Angeline, wife of Richard Greenwood; and Mrs. Louisa Hibner, both of Joliet Township; Mrs. Estella Cole, of Storm Lake, Iowa; Mrs. Sarah A. Donaldson and Mrs. Mary Engleman, both of Joliet Township.

On the home farm in Joliet Township the birth of our subject occurred September 7, 1861. His education was obtained in public schools. When seventeen years of age he secured work as a teamster with the Joliet Stone Company. A year later he was made foreman, which position he held for some time, and later for nine years he was superintendent of the Joliet & Chicago Stone Company. Meantime, in partnership with H. T. Keltie, he started the Keltie Stone Company in 1890, and in 1892, resigning his other position, he became superintendent of this company, which opened the quarries between Jackson and Cass streets, on the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad. In 1898 they opened a quarry on the same road at Bridge Junction, in Lockport Township. Besides the management of the quarries he has had considerable work as a general contractor. He owns the old homestead of ten and one-half acres, besides ninety-two acres adjoining Joliet. He resided there until 1897, when he bought property on Poplar street.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Newkirk has been an efficient worker on the county central committee. In the spring of 1893 he was elected highway commissioner of Joliet Township and served until 1899, a period of two terms. Matters affecting the welfare of the people receive his

thoughtful attention, and he is classed among the public-spirited men who wish in every way possible to advance the city's prosperity. Fraternally he is connected with Mount Joliet Lodge No. 42, A. F. & A. M.; Joliet Chapter No. 27, R. A. M.; and Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T. He was married in Joliet, to Miss Mary Englemann, who was born in Switzerland and came to this county with her father, Jacob Englemann. The four children born of their union are George, Ralph, Florence and Freda. Mrs. Newkirk was reared from childhood in the Lutheran faith and is a member of that denomination, while Mr. Newkirk inclines toward the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JAMES C. BEATTIE, who is a leading business man of Elwood, was born in Winfield, Ill., April 9, 1856, a son of Robert and Margaret (McIlrath) Beattie, natives of County Antrim, Ireland. He was one of eight children, of whom two besides himself are now living, viz.: Jennie, who married Z. T. Blaine, of Kansas; and Robert, a carpenter in Joliet. His father, who was born in 1815, grew to manhood on the home farm and for a number of years was employed as deliveryman for a bakery, in addition to his work as a farmer. About 1850 he brought his family to America and settled in Illinois, where he was a sub contractor in railroad construction. In 1858 he purchased a farm on the Rock Run in Troy Township, Will County, and there resided until 1880, when he retired from active labors and removed to Joliet. His death occurred in this city in 1896. In politics he was a staunch supporter of Republican principles, and in religion a Presbyterian.

Besides the advantages of the public schools, our subject took the regular commercial course in the Metropolitan Business College in Chicago, from which he graduated in 1875. Afterward he became connected with Henry T. Truby in the grain business, the two erecting an elevator in



Wilmington Township, where the canal then had a feeder. He had full charge of the business. In 1881 the elevator was built at Elwood and the business transferred to this point, where he has since resided, having full charge of the business at this place. For a number of years he has served as township central committeeman, and he has also been a member of the village board. In politics he is a Republican. Fraternally he is connected with Jackson Camp No. 3318, M. W. A., and Elwood Camp of Royal Brothers. In religion he is a Presbyterian.

September 15, 1881, Mr. Beattie married Miss Elizabeth A. Truby, a sister of Henry T. Truby, whose sketch appears on another page. They are the parents of three children, Alice Marie, Florence H. and James Truby. Mr. Beattie has been a successful business man and as such has gained the good will of all who know him.

of Plainfield, Will County, and engaged in farming until 1871, when he retired from active labors, settling in Joliet. After coming to this city he became connected with the First Presbyterian Church, in which he was deacon for years. During the latter part of his life he suffered much from ill-health. He died March 22, 1886.

Mrs. Elizabeth (Steele) Caton, was born in Elizabethtown, Essex County, N. Y., May 30, 1819, a daughter of Jonathan and Theodosia (Nichols) Steele. Her father was born in Hartford, Conn., in 1777. He moved from his native place to Elizabethtown, N. Y., and in 1812 had charge of the arsenal there, fitting out the troops for the campaign on Lake Champlain. His wife was born in Vermont, October 16, 1780, and died in Elizabethtown when her daughter, Elizabeth, was only three months old. Subsequently Mr. Steele moved to New York City, and thence to Chicago in 1837, sailing from Buffalo on one of the first lake steamers that ever plied the waters of Lake Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Caton became the parents of nine children. One of the daughters is the wife of T. A. Mason, represented elsewhere in this work. The others now living are scattered through different parts of this and other states.

**W**ILLIAM PENN CATON was for years one of Will County's most honored residents. He was born in Orange County, N. Y., March 28, 1815. His father, Robert Caton, was born May 22, 1761, and was three times married, his third wife being Hannah Dean, who died April 16, 1836; his death occurred April 6, 1815, when his son was only nine days old. When our subject was eighteen years of age he left New York state and went to Ann Arbor, Mich., where he was employed as clerk in a store. The year 1836 found him in Chicago, Ill., where he clerked. He also spent a short time in Milwaukee, Wis. Afterward he took up two thousand acres of government land in Cook County, sixteen miles northwest of the present site of Chicago. On this property he made his home until 1848. Meantime he was married, November 28, 1844, to Miss Elizabeth Steele, whose home was on the north branch of the Chicago River in Cook County.

Returning to Chicago, Mr. Caton secured a position as inspector of canal boats, which he held until 1856. He then settled in the vicinity

**A**DAM GROTH. In no occupation has a greater advance been made during the past fifty years than in contracting and architectural work. The contractors of Joliet are of a class fully equal to those of any other large city, and among them Mr. Groth occupies a prominent position. In 1895 he embarked in business as a cut-stone and general contractor at No. 1311 Cass street, where he has a fine plant operated by steam-power, and equipped with planers, saws, lathes, etc. Employment is furnished to one hundred men, and all kinds of stone are handled and shipped to every part of the country. Among the contracts which he has had are many for important buildings, including the schoolhouses and other public buildings in Joliet. At this writing he has under process of construction the

United States post-offices at Paterson, N. J., and Brockton, Mass., the asylum for incurable insane at Peoria, Ill., and Otto Young's summer residence at Lake Geneva, Wis.

Mr. Groth was born in Marbourg, Germany, in 1847, the youngest of three children, of whom the oldest died in Germany, and the second, Carl, is engaged in the cut-stone business in Germany. His father, Frederick, son of a German soldier in the war of 1812-15, was born and reared in Marbourg, where he engaged in cut-stone contracting, and built many of the university buildings in that place. He survived his wife for many years, and died in his native town. When fifteen years of age our subject began to work at cutting stone in the summer, while in the winter he took a complete course in drafting and architecture. In 1866 he left Bremen on the sailing vessel "Anna," which, after a stormy voyage of fifty-three days, landed in Baltimore, Md. Three days after landing he began to work at his trade in the employ of Geddes Bros., with whom he continued for seven months. He was then employed by Mr. Maxwell for two years. From Baltimore he went to York, Pa., thence to Philadelphia, and finally returned to Baltimore, where he worked with Taylor Bros. until 1871. In May of the latter year he came west to Chicago, where he worked at his trade. He witnessed the burning of Chicago and assisted in building it up again. In 1872 he became foreman for W. C. Dickman, with whom he remained for three years. In those days a five-story building was considered very tall. After a time stone was used in the construction, and seven-story buildings began to be built, but they were no higher until the steel construction was introduced. He was foreman in the building of the Sherman house, a seven-story building; also in the building of the county jail and court-house.

Going to Wausau, Wis., in 1876, Mr. Groth started a small stone and contracting business, and later opened a granite quarry which he discovered north of the town about nine miles. He quarried the first granite in that section, and shipped large quantities to Chicago to be used for paving blocks. In 1882 he returned to Chicago, where he embarked in the stone and contracting business. From there, in 1884, he settled in Joliet, where he was foreman for E. R. Brainard, the contractor for the Joliet penitentiary. He continued with the same employer until 1895, when he resigned in order to engage in business for himself. He is a man of energy, and has proved himself an efficient man of business, possessing the qualities that almost invariably bring their possessor success. In religion he is of the Lutheran faith. Fraternally he is connected with the Royal Arcanum; also Matteson Lodge No. 175, A. F. & A. M.; the Royal Arch Chapter Council, and Joliet Commandery No. 4. He was married in Chicago to Miss Minnie Fallscheer, daughter of John Fallscheer, an early settler and business man of that city, where she was born. Their marriage resulted in the birth of four children, namely: Lucy, who is in charge of the office; Carl, who is architect, draftsman and superintendent of construction for his father; Emma and Alma.

Formerly a Democrat, at the time of the convention of that party in Chicago in 1896, and the adoption by it of a platform endorsing free silver, he withdrew his allegiance and joined the Republican party. In the spring of 1895 he was nominated for city treasurer on the Democratic ticket, and, being elected, took the oath of office, May 1, 1895, for a term of two years. The office he filled with credit to himself. He assisted in organizing the Germania Club, of which he served as vice-president for two terms.







*C. E. Putnam*



## CALEB E. ANTRAM.

CALEB E. ANTRAM, attorney-at-law, with office in the Barber building, Joliet, was born near Salem, Fayette County, Pa., February 12, 1865, a son of Robert and Sarah (Woodward) Antram. His maternal grandfather, Joseph Woodward, was an influential farmer of Fayette County; and the paternal grandfather, Caleb, also spent his entire life upon a Pennsylvania farm. Wherever found the family has been prominent and its members have held positions of trust and honor.

When twenty-three years of age Robert Antram began in business for himself by opening a grist and flour mill. In 1869 he settled in LaSalle County, Ill., where he bought land and embarked in farming. During subsequent years he became a large land holder; for, having been reared on a farm, he was familiar with the occupation and knew how to operate the farm successfully. He was active in the local ranks of the Democratic party, held numerous local offices, and was a leader in affairs among his fellow-citizens. For many years he officiated as an elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, of which he was a strict member from childhood and to which he still belongs. He is now practically retired from active labors, but is still hale and robust, and takes a warm interest in what is going on in the world. Of his eight children Caleb is the oldest now living and the only one in Will County. He received his primary education in the district schools of LaSalle County, where he laid the foundation of the broad information he has since acquired. His father was deeply interested in Lincoln Univer-

sity, a Cumberland Presbyterian institution at Lincoln, Ill., and so sent his son there, where he studied for some time. Later he spent one year at Valparaiso (Ind.) Normal School, and later taught school for one year. He then entered the junior class of Knox College, from which he graduated in 1889 with the degree of B. S. In the fall of the same year he matriculated in the law department of Northwestern College, from which he graduated in June, 1891, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Coming to Joliet in September, 1891, Mr. Antram opened an office for the practice of law. He was a total stranger here, but he soon, by his ability, won the attention of other attorneys. His practice is general and he has done some successful work as a criminal lawyer. The probate and real-estate departments of the law occupy most of his attention, and he has been particularly successful in them. In 1896 he was commissioned by the family to go to the old country and attend to business matters in connection with the estate. While abroad he visited various points of interest on the British Isles. He had with him a personal letter from Secretary of State Olney to the foreign officials, which caused him to receive considerable attention in the various cities visited. In politics he is independent, with Democratic proclivities, and, although not a politician in the usual acceptance of the term, he takes an active interest in public affairs. For four years he efficiently filled a position as commissioner of special assessments. Fraternally he is connected with Joliet Lodge No. 856, I. O. O. F., and is a charter member of the Knights of the White

Cross. He is an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Joliet and a contributor to religious and benevolent movements. June 30, 1897, he was united in marriage with Lillian B., daughter of Rev. A. J. Van Wormer, of Albion, Mich.

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JOHN C. FLYNN, who is traveling salesman for the wholesale shoe house of Drur, Selbie & Co., of Portsmouth, Ohio, has made Joliet his home since 1892. He was born in Mooers, Clinton County, N. Y., February 25, 1857, a son of John and Catherine (Cassaday) Flynn, natives respectively of Ireland and Canada. His father, who was born near Dublin, remained in his native place until he was about twenty, and then crossed the ocean to New York, where he spent two years. Returning to Ireland he remained there for two years. On coming to America for the second time he settled in Mooers, N. Y., and secured employment there as a railroad contractor. During the last five years of his life he was engaged in the mercantile business at Mooers. At the opening of the Civil war he espoused the cause of the Union and enlisted as a private in the Ninety-sixth New York Infantry, which he accompanied to the front and in which he continued until the expiration of his term of service. His only wound was received in the battle of the Wilderness and was not of a serious nature. In religion he was a Roman Catholic. He died in Mooers when fifty-four years of age, and his widow has since continued to make that place her home. Of their seven children we note the following: Margaret is deceased; Mary A. lives in Minneapolis, Minn.; Stephen is a farmer near Mooers; Frank died in Iowa; Thomas is deceased; John C. was sixth in order of birth; and the youngest is James M., of Cleveland, Ohio.

When he was only nine years of age the subject of this sketch began to do for himself. As a newsboy on passenger trains he gained his first knowledge of business. Meantime, however, he did not neglect his studies, but attended school

when it was possible. In 1876 he entered the express office at St. Albans, Vt., where he remained for three years. From there in 1880 he went to Portsmouth, Ohio, as local agent for the Singer Sewing Machine Company, but resigned that position in June, 1881, and became traveling salesman for Drur, Selbie & Co. The house at that time was a small one and had only one commercial traveler besides himself; but such has been its growth that it now keeps fourteen men constantly on the road. At first the territory assigned to him was very large, including Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and Iowa, but now he travels only in northern Illinois, eastern Minnesota and Wisconsin. As the house manufactures only shoes of a fine quality, only the best trade is desired; hence only large towns are visited. For years he made his headquarters in various places, as seemed most convenient for his business, but since 1892 he has resided in Joliet. During that year he married Miss Nellie Sullivan, of this city. They lost one child in infancy and have two sons living, John C. and James S. Politically Mr. Flynn is an independent Democrat, supporting the party in national issues, but voting for the best man in local elections. In fraternal matters he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Arcanum.

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HOWARD S. BARKER, cashier of the Exchange Bank at Frankfort Station, was born in Oneida County, N. Y., in 1850, a son of Asahel B. and Elizabeth Barker, the latter a native of England. His paternal grandfather, Miles Barker, was a descendant of early settlers of Connecticut. The father, a native of Oneida County, born in 1823, came to Chicago in 1846, working at his trade, but returned to New York after two years, and in 1855 came to Frankfort Station, where he followed the carpenter's trade for a time. In 1862 he embarked in the lumber business and in the handling of agricultural implements and building material. This he continued until 1897, when he sold out to his son



Howard and retired from business life. He and his wife had eight children, of whom two sons and a daughter are living.

At the time the family settled at Frankfort Station our subject was about five years of age. His education was begun in local public schools and continued in Chicago University. He graduated from the Chicago College of Pharmacy, studying for a year under Dr. Jameson of Chicago. On returning to Frankfort he added a stock of drugs to his father's store and became a partner in the entire business, father and son remaining together until the former's retirement in 1897. Since then our subject has been sole proprietor. In 1894, with his father, he started the Exchange Bank, of which he was cashier from the first. He now devotes his entire attention to the banking business. He is the owner of a farm in Frankfort Township, which he rents. In politics he is a Republican, and is now township treasurer, also member of the county central committee. He has been a delegate to county and district conventions. Fraternally he is an official member of the Modern Woodmen. He is a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and for some time has held office as Sunday-school superintendent. In 1880 he married Sarah Winne, by whom he has four children, namely: Wilfred W., Elizabeth G., Paul F. and Stantial H.

**G**EORGE M. ARNOLD, deceased, formerly a merchant of Lockport, was born and reared in New York state, and came to Will County with his brother, John W. Arnold. For several years he was connected with the dry-goods house of George Fish & Co., Lockport, but severed his connection with that firm on being elected sheriff, and for two terms gave his attention to the duties of that office. He was a well-known public man and had acquaintances and friends in every part of the county. His death was mourned by many as a personal bereavement.

Mr. Arnold married Miss Mary Mess, a native of Scotland, and a daughter of George and Cath-

erine Mess. Her father was born near Aberdeen, Scotland, and came to the United States in 1840, settling at first in Chicago, where he made his home for several years. He then came to Yankee Settlement, Will County, and for several years successfully carried on farm pursuits and stock-raising. In later years he bought a farm near Lockport and there he continued to reside until his death at about seventy years. In politics he was a Republican, and in religion an Episcopalian. He was a member of a very aristocratic and cultured family of Scotland. His wife died one year after his demise. They were the parents of four children, namely: George, who died at twenty years of age; Louisa and Mrs. Arnold, who live in Lockport; and William T., who resides in Tennessee. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold had two children, of whom the son, George M., is an engineer in Chicago, and the daughter, Minnie L., is at home.

**J**ACOB BROSSMAN, a farmer, stock-raiser and dairyman of Dupage Township, has made his home in Will County since 1854. He was born in Lancaster County, Pa., July 16, 1837, a son of Jacob Brossman, Sr., and grandson of John Brossman, natives of Pennsylvania and farmers by occupation. In 1854 his father removed from Pennsylvania to Iowa, but, not liking the surroundings, came to Illinois and settled in the northern part of Dupage Township, Will County, where he bought two hundred acres at \$35 per acre. The land was partly in good timber and partly under cultivation, and was therefore more valuable than much of the surrounding property. As he prospered he added to his possessions until he acquired four hundred acres. In politics he was a Democrat and in religion a Lutheran. He died at the age of ninety-four years. During his residence in Pennsylvania he was married. In his family there were twelve children, Jacob being the oldest of those now living. He was educated in Pennsylvania, first acquiring an excellent knowledge of the German language and afterward studying Eng-

lish. At the time of settling in Illinois he was seventeen years of age. He remained with his father until he was twenty-one, when he began farming on his own account. When he was about thirty-one years old he bought one hundred acres where he now lives. To this he added until he now owns two hundred and seventy-five acres, all in one body. His house burned, and afterward he built the residence he now occupies. He also erected other needed buildings. In 1892 he built a substantial barn, 36x86 feet in dimensions, and 22 feet high, with a stone basement. At one time he was a very extensive raiser of and dealer in cattle and hogs, and he still makes a specialty of Durham cattle, also raises Norman horses. In national politics he supports Democratic principles; in local matters he is independent. He has served as road commissioner. In 1850 he married Lydia Setzer, by whom he has seven children: James, a farmer at East Wheatland, Will County; Jeremiah, who is engaged in the coal business in Englewood, Cook County; John, who assists on the home farm; William, also on the home farm; Jacob, a farmer in Dupage Township; Hannah, who is married and lives in Wheatland Township; and Mary.

**J**ACOB A. HENRY, president of the Will County National Bank at Joliet, was born in Hunterdon County, N. J., April 25, 1825. In 1842 he entered the employ of the Hartford & New Haven Railroad Company, and assisted in laying the first track on the canal road through New Haven. In 1846 he settled in Elyria, Ohio, and took his first contract in connection with a railroad in Ohio and Indiana. He superintended the construction of the northern division of the Sandusky road. In 1856 he came to Illinois, and in 1859 to Joliet. For several years he was roadmaster of the Chicago & Alton Railroad. In 1870 he began a contract for the building of the Houston & Great Northern Railroad in Texas, which he completed in 1873. Meantime he also built a portion of the Southern Pacific, which involved a large amount of heavy work.

In 1888 he filled a contract in Arkansas. Few men in the central states have had larger contracts, and certainly no one has been more successful in filling them satisfactorily.

In 1873 Mr. Henry erected a residence in Joliet, and here he has since made his home. He has been very active in matters pertaining to the progress of the city, aided in securing the electric railways and in other movements of great value. Justly, therefore, he holds a high position in the regard of his fellow-townsmen. He has been a Republican since the organization of the party. He has been twice married, having by the first marriage a daughter, who is the wife of J. W. Folk, of Joliet. His first wife died in 1878; and in 1885 he was united in marriage with Mrs. Rachel (Hulsizer) Appgar.

**A**LBERT M. STRONG, a retired farmer of Dupage Township, was born July 18, 1848, on the place where he still lives. His father, Robert, a native of Vermont, came to Illinois in July, 1831, and settled on an unimproved tract of prairie in Will County. He at once began to cultivate and improve the land. For a time he lived in a log house, and this was the usual stopping place of all the people who traveled through the country in search of a location. During the Black Hawk war, which occurred the year after he came here, the family went to Chicago, returning when the danger was past. Through energy he became one of the large land owners of his township. He was honored as a citizen, and was chosen to serve in local offices, such as supervisor and justice of the peace. He helped to organize the Presbyterian Church in his neighborhood, served as its elder for years and was its main supporter. While in New York he married Caroline Willey, and their union resulted in the birth of eleven children, of whom our subject is the sole representative in this county.

In public schools, the academy at Naperville and the Western Reserve College, Ohio, our subject received a good education. On leaving col-



lege he farmed with his father until he was twenty-one, when he rented a part of the homestead. After the death of his father, which occurred December 28, 1885, he succeeded to the management of the estate. He has given especial attention to raising Shropshire sheep. In 1891 he rented the farm and went to Joliet, where he engaged in the real-estate and insurance business for four years. Afterward he visited in Arkansas and other southern states, and then spent a winter in Colorado. Since his return he has resided on the homestead, which he rents to his son-in-law. He is a Republican and has served as delegate to county and state conventions. October 21, 1869, he married Ida, daughter of George Wheeler, of Ohio. They have two daughters: Grace C., Mrs. Dawson, of New Mexico; and Hattie, whose husband operates the Strong homestead.

**W**ILLIAM COOK arrived in Will County May 10, 1850, and for forty years was one of the well-known farmers of Crete Township, where he owned a good farm on section 16, besides some land on section 17, aggregating altogether one hundred and twenty-five acres. He was born in Lincolnshire, England, February 25, 1810, a son of Thomas and Sarah (Holmes) Cook, and the only one of their nine children to seek a home in the United States. At thirteen years of age he left school and began to learn the shoemaker's trade, serving until he was twenty, after which he worked as a journeyman. Later he set up a shop in Winterton, and there married Miss Elizabeth Adkinson, who was born in England in 1803.

February 25, 1831, our subject and his wife took passage at Hull on an American bound ship and after a voyage of seven weeks landed in New York City, whence they journeyed to Monroeville, Ohio. After working as a shoemaker for a year Mr. Cook bought a small farm. Fifteen years later he moved to Lake County, Ind., and from there two years afterward moved to the vicinity of Clinton, coming thence to Crete Town-

ship. Here his wife died in 1865. Later he again married, his second wife being Mrs. Mary A. (Mitchell) Hoskins, a native of England, who died December 12, 1878. Mr. Cook continued to make his home on his farm during his remaining years, but his activity toward the close of his life was lessened by the lameness resulting from a fall. He died at his home July 14, 1890.

**H**ENRY BEHRENS came to Will County in 1850 and in early manhood secured one hundred and sixty acres of wild land in Crete Township. By subsequent purchase he became the owner of three hundred acres, which at his death, February 6, 1889, became the property of his heirs. He was born in Hanover, Germany, January 9, 1836, a son of Frederick and Mary Behrens, whom he accompanied to America about 1850. Shortly afterward he settled with them in Crete Township. July 22, 1859, he married Sophia Ohlendorf, who was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, in 1839, a daughter of Henry and Sophia (Sene) Ohlendorf. She accompanied her parents to America when thirteen years of age and settled with them in Crete Township. After the death of her husband she assumed the management of the estate, which included, not only the property in Will County, but two farms in Woodford Township, Iroquois County. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Behrens comprised twelve children.

**P**HINEAS K. ROWLEY was born in New York state and came to Will County when eighteen years of age. Here he continued to make his home until his death, which occurred, at seventy-two years of age, February 22, 1889. He was married, November 1, 1843, to Miss Jane A. Sanford, who was born in Massachusetts in 1824. After his marriage he settled on section 19, Homer Township, and there the remainder of his life was busily passed in farm pursuits. He owned one hundred and

eighty acres comprising a valuable farm. With his wife, he held membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He had a family of seven children. The eldest, Adelbert C., married Sarah B. Phillips, and settled in Kane County; Mary E. married John Mitchell; George died when fourteen months old; Fred E. settled in Livingston County; Alice S. married Jerome Paddock, of Homer Township; Jane S. died at nineteen years of age; and Frank A. married Helen E. Savage and settled on a farm in Homer Township.

**J**AMES BIGGINS resided in Will County for almost a half century and was well known among the farmers of Dupage Township. He was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, May 11, 1822, and spent the first eighteen years of life in his native land. On emigrating to America he at once settled in this county and afterward, by energy and industry, accumulated a valuable property. February 9, 1861, he married Miss Catherine Prior, who was born in Ireland and, like himself, was reared in the Roman Catholic faith. They became the parents of six children, namely: Eugene, James, Edward, William, George and Mary.

Mr. Biggins died in Dupage Township June 15, 1884. His brother, Owen, who accompanied him to America and also settled in Dupage Township, died April 19, 1885. Both were law-abiding citizens of their adopted country, and were worthy of the esteem in which they were held.

**E**LIAS MYERS, a pioneer farmer of Wheatland Township, was born in Lancaster County, Pa., May 25, 1828, a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Amon) Myers. His father, who was born and reared in Pennsylvania, engaged in teaming and also cultivated a small farm of eight acres. In the spring of 1844, accompanied by his family and fourteen other families, he came via the canal and great lakes to Chicago, thence

direct to Wheatland Township, where he bought ninety acres of partly improved land. Two years later he died, at the age of seventy-five years. He was active in local politics and a staunch Republican. In religion he was connected with the Methodist Church. He was of direct German descent. The lady whom he married was a native of Germany and when eleven years of age accompanied her parents to Lancaster County, Pa., where her father died at ninety-nine years of age and her mother at the same age. Mrs. Myers died in Wheatland Township when eighty-four years old. In her family there were eight children, Elias being the third of these.

When the family settled in this county our subject was a boy of sixteen. He remained with his mother on the home farm until the spring of 1852, when he went to California by water. On his arrival in the far west he engaged in mining and also followed other occupations at different times. However, none of his enterprises proved very successful, and he finally decided that he stood a better chance back at his old home. Returning, he settled on an eighty-acre farm in Wheatland Township, a place that represented his earnings while in California. A few years later he sold the place and bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres. At one time he owned six hundred acres in Iowa, but this he sold at \$30 an acre. He owns property in Aurora, where for eight years he made his home. When he was young he teamed from Chicago to Aurora for fourteen years, and he also engaged in threshing during the season. Some years ago he lost his left hand through an accident with a corn husker, and since then he has done very little manual labor. In 1883 he turned his farm over to his third son, since which time he has lived retired from active cares.

The marriage of Mr. Myers, in 1856, united him with a daughter of Hiram Johnson, of Wheatland Township. She died in 1883. Five children were born of their marriage. The two eldest, Burton and Wallace, are engaged in the livery, feed, hay and grain business at Naperville, where their father built a large barn for them. The youngest son, William, manages the



home farm. Edith is the wife of John Graves, of Aurora, who was captain of a company in the Spanish-American war; and Pearl, who resides with her father on the home farm. While he takes a warm interest in public affairs and in questions affecting the welfare of our nation, Mr. Myers has never been a politician and has never desired office. The only positions he has ever held were of an educational nature. In political views he favors the Republican party.

**GEN. PHILIP CORNELIUS HAYES**, of Joliet, was born in Granby, Conn., February 3, 1833, a son of Gaylord Hayes. The family is of Scotch origin. The first of the name in America was George Hayes, who settled in Windsor, Conn., in 1680. His oldest son, Daniel, was the father of Ezekiel, among whose descendants was President Rutherford B. Hayes, who was a third cousin of the subject of this article. The family has been noted for patriotism and valor. Andrew Hayes, of Connecticut, served from June 4, 1777, to January 8, 1778, in the Revolutionary war. In the war of 1812 our subject's father, Gaylord, and uncle Ezekiel bore a part, while the general and two brothers were in the Union army during the Civil war. Gaylord Hayes came to Illinois in 1833 and settled near Ottawa, where he purchased one and one-half sections of farm land, remaining there until he died in 1839. By his marriage to Mary Goodrich Humphrey he had seven children, four of whom are living. His wife died in 1845.

Our subject was a child when his parents died. When he was fifteen he began to work on a farm for \$8 per month. During winters he worked for his board with the privilege of attending school. At nineteen years of age he began to teach school, which occupation he followed for several years, meantime pursuing his studies. September 1, 1855, he entered the preparatory school at Oberlin, Ohio, from which he was graduated in 1860. He then took up the study of theology in the seminary connected with his alma mater. On President Lincoln's call for troops he enlisted as

a private, and when a company was formed he was chosen captain. However, the state having more than its quota, his company was not accepted. July 16, 1862, he was again mustered into the service and was made captain of his company, which was assigned to the One Hundred and Third Ohio Infantry. The history of this gallant regiment is written in the annals of our country. Its record was most creditable to its officers and men. It was mustered out at Cleveland June 22, 1865. Meantime the captain had been promoted, December 5, 1864, to lieutenant-colonel, later was made colonel, and March 13, 1865, was brevetted brigadier-general. As a soldier he won highest praise from his superiors. Col. Daniel Cameron, commanding the brigade, alluded to him as "one of the best officers of the army."

After the war General Hayes was superintendent of the public schools of Mount Vernon, Ohio. In the fall of 1866 he purchased the Circleville (Ohio) *Union*, at which time he entered upon his successful journalistic career. In 1869 he sold his paper and bought another one. In 1874 he returned to Illinois and bought the Morris *Herald*, publishing it until 1892, when he bought a controlling interest in the *Republican* of Joliet. In 1895 he retired from active business pursuits, although his ability as a writer is so widely recognized that his services are frequently in demand in the journalistic field. From the organization of the Republican party he has been an active member. In 1876 he was elected to congress from the seventh district, comprising Grundy, LaSalle, Kendall and Will Counties. He entered upon his official duties March 4, 1877, and at the expiration of his four years' term was re-elected. He was a wise legislator, a close student of the questions of the day, and a firm supporter of measures calculated to advance the general welfare. His career in congress reflected credit upon him as a man of integrity and ability. He is a member of Bartleson Post No. 6, G. A. R., of Joliet, and the Loyal Legion of Chicago.

At Oberlin, Ohio, January 25, 1865, General Hayes married Amelia Estelle Johnson, daughter of Dr. Homer Johnson, and descended from old

New England families. They became the parents of six children: Carl J., deceased; Jessie, who is married and resides in Joliet; Ralph W., who is a newspaper man by occupation; Georgie, deceased; M. C.; and Mary, wife of Everett C. Platt, of Eagle Grove, Iowa.

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**J**OHN W. DIERSEN, deceased, was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, September 2, 1838, a son of John H. and Sophia (Hue) Diersen. The family set sail from Bremen in May, 1846, and landed in New York July 5, thence proceeded, via river, canal and lakes, to Chicago. In 1852 they came from Chicago to Will County, where the father secured forty acres of government land. His wife died in Crete in 1885 and he passed away two years afterward. Their son, John W., married Engel Desenisz, who was born in Hesse-Cassel, August 28, 1842, and came with her brother Philip to this county when he was sixteen.

As a farmer John W. Diersen was efficient, and he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres in Crete Township. In addition he was secretary of the Crete Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, and for years served as highway commissioner. In religion he was a Lutheran.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Diersen consists of twelve children: John, William, Louisa, Henry, August, Herman, Gottleib, Amelia, Emma, Walter, Anna and Otto. Mr. Diersen died November 12, 1898.

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**W**ILLIAM F. STAFFORD. A study of the lives of prosperous men shows that their success is in every instance due to their energy and good judgment. It is to these qualities that Mr. Stafford owes the success which has rewarded his efforts in business. When he came to Joliet, in 1891, he secured employment with Mr. Hess, whose interest he bought in the fall of 1892 and afterward continued with Mr. Godfrey for two years, meantime holding his own financially in spite of the panic of 1893. Since 1894

he has been alone, continuing at the same site as before, No. 707 Van Buren street. He is the largest wholesale and retail milk dealer in the city, and furnishes milk and cream for the state penitentiary as well as for many private parties. In butter and eggs he also carries on a wholesale and retail business. He has a plant with twelve-horse electric power, which he uses in the manufacture of ice cream for the wholesale and retail trade, and in this line, as in others, he has built up a valuable business.

Mr. Stafford was born in Dupage Township, Will County, February 13, 1856, a son of Enoch and Sarah (Wheat) Stafford. His father, who was a son of William and Ann Stafford, was born in Nottinghamshire, England, February 23, 1830, and came to America in 1851, arriving in New York May 29. Proceeding west, he secured work as a farm hand in this county and afterward cultivated a rented farm. After ten years he invested his savings in farm property, and he now owns one hundred and ninety well-improved acres in the township where he first settled. His first wife died in 1858, leaving two children, William and Sarah, the latter now deceased. Afterward he married a sister of his first wife, Miss Jane Wheat, who came to America from England at twelve years of age, settling in Dupage Township with her parents, Benjamin and Hannah (Hinsliff) Wheat. Eight children were born of this marriage, four of whom are living.

Remaining with his father in youth, our subject gained a good knowledge of farm work, and until 1890 he was interested in agricultural pursuits. November 25, 1880, he married Miss Abbie L. Kilmer, who was born in Dupage Township, her father, Reuben Kilmer, having come here at an early age from the vicinity of the Hudson River in New York. To their marriage have been born two sons, Reuben E. and James K., the older of whom assists his father in business. In September, 1890, Mr. Stafford became connected with the Dupage creamery, but a year later he removed to Joliet and has since been identified, as employe and later as owner, with the business of which he is now head. He is a Republican in politics and prior to his removal



from Dupage Township served as tax collector for two years. Fraternally he is associated with Matteson Lodge No. 175, A. F. & A. M. While he is not a member of any religious organization, he contributes to the support of the Eastern Avenue Baptist Church, of which his wife is a member.

**G.** G. THORP, M. E. In the life of this gentleman is afforded an illustration of the recognition which talent and merit almost invariably win in the business world. From early boyhood he showed a talent for mechanical engineering and, his tastes lying so strongly in this direction, he secured the necessary education and has since been engaged in work directly connected with this occupation. The remarkable success with which he has met proves that his choice of an occupation was wise. As general superintendent of the Illinois Steel Company he holds a very responsible position, but it is one whose duties he discharges faithfully and well, thereby winning the commendation of his superior officers and the respect of those under him.

The Thorp family is of English ancestry. J. M. Thorp, our subject's father, was born in Philadelphia, and was the son of an Englishman, born in Manchester, and who became a cotton manufacturer in his native city and later in Philadelphia. From that city J. M. Thorp removed to Pittsburg, where he engaged in the manufacture of oils. In 1882 he removed to Madison, Wis., where he is now living retired. He married Jane H. Veeder, who was born in Schenectady, N. Y., of remote Holland-Dutch descent, her ancestors, however, having long resided in New York. In her family there were five daughters and one son, the latter being the subject of this article. He was born in Pittsburg, Pa., June 29, 1868. In 1887 he graduated from the high school of Madison, Wis., after which he entered the University of Wisconsin, and continued there until his graduation in 1891, with the degree of M. E. The following year he spent as a fellow in the department of mechanical engineering. In 1892 he went to Chicago, where

he was employed in the old North Chicago rolling mill operated by the Illinois Steel Company, his special work being as engineer of tests. In 1895 he was appointed assistant master mechanic of the Joliet plant. The next year he was promoted to the position of master mechanic in the Pueblo plant of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. He proved himself so efficient and capable that he was soon made chief engineer of the works. After having been connected with that plant for some years, in May, 1899, he resigned to accept his present position with the Illinois Steel Company. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Chi Psi of the University of Wisconsin. So deeply has he been interested in his profession and so engrossed by its duties that he has never identified himself with public affairs in any way and, aside from voting the Republican ticket, takes no part in politics. From the success that has already, at so early a period of his life, rewarded his earnest and intelligent efforts, it may be safely predicted that the future years hold for him ever increasing successes and honors in the business world.

**H**ENRY DOUGLAS SNAPP. There is perhaps no occupation carrying with it a greater weight of responsibility than that of railroad engineer. He who fills such a position must necessarily be a man of steady nerve, great courage and possessing a mind over which a sudden danger has no power to throw dismay or terror. Such a man is the subject of this article, who is one of the most popular engineers running out of Joliet. He is above all an unostentatious man, doing his duty faithfully, but quietly, and never showing in his character any indications of pride or boastfulness. Those who once meet him are his friends ever afterward, and those who know him best most highly appreciate his fine qualities of manhood.

A son of Hon. Henry Snapp, whose sketch appears on another page, the subject of this sketch was born in Joliet February 28, 1853. His education was obtained in the public schools.

At the age of sixteen he began railroading, for his tastes ran in that direction, and he had no desire to take the college course planned for him by his parents. He entered the employ of the Chicago & Alton Railroad Company as a fireman. After two years with that company he took a similar position on the Rock Island road. After some five years as fireman he was given an engine on the Chicago & Indianapolis Air Line, now the Monon route, and since then has been on different roads. Strict attention to his work has been his watchword and his high standing as an engineer testifies to his fidelity to duty.

The marriage of Mr. Snapp took place October 10, 1877, and united him with Miss Frances Hill, who was born in New York state, but at two years of age was brought to Joliet by her parents, Alva and Margaret (Banta) Hill. Her father, who followed the shoemaker's trade in Joliet, continued to reside in this city until his death, which resulted in an accident on a railroad excursion on the 4th of July, 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Snapp are the parents of two sons, Henry Alvin, who was born June 5, 1886; and Robert Douglas, born September 12, 1888.

**R**OBERT GOUDY, a farmer of Dupage Township, was born in lower Canada January 2, 1822, a son of Alexander and Jane (Wallace) Goudy, natives respectively of Scotland and Ireland. When he was small his parents moved to Burlington, Vt., and a year later went to Essex County, N. Y., where he passed the years of boyhood. When he was twenty-two he came to Will County, Ill., and for three years worked by the month on a farm. He then bought fifty acres of wild prairie land. Next he worked on the canal for ten years. On selling his original farm he bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 28, which place he improved and on which he resided until removing to his present farm. He has served as school director and for ten years was highway commissioner. October 15, 1848, he married Miss Ophelia Welch, who was born in

Ohio and came to this county in 1837. They have one daughter, Julia, wife of J. E. Davis, who now has charge of Mr. Goudy's farm.

**J**OHN COMISKEY, superintendent of the Joliet chemical works and part owner of the plant, was born at Newcastle-on-the-Tyne, England, in 1858. His father, Dennis, who was in the chemical business, remained during most of his life in the vicinity of his birth. By his marriage to Jane Skill he had nine children, of whom John is next to the eldest. In 1882, two years after his son had settled in this country, he came to the United States, but, not liking the climate, he returned to England. He died in Liverpool in 1894.

As he attended school only fourteen years in his boyhood, our subject is practically self-educated, and his present position and standing may be attributed wholly to his unaided efforts. When eleven years of age he began to be self-supporting. He was employed in chemical works near his home and thus acquired a thorough knowledge of the business in which he is still engaged. In 1880 he left England to seek a home in America. For six years he was employed in chemical works in New Jersey, and, being economical, he saved a considerable part of his salary. With this money he came to Joliet and started in business, beginning the manufacture of muriatic acid. While he had much to contend with he turned out such a superior article that he was assured of success from the start. In order to secure sufficient capital to conduct the business he admitted a partner and has since continued steadily at work in the same line. In 1888 the firm bought their present location and since then they have erected buildings as needed. In addition to the manufacture of muriatic acid they now make sulphate of soda and sell direct to manufacturers, having a contract to dispose of all they can turn out. Being a practical man, thoroughly acquainted with the machinery, he superintends it personally, and has met with a success that he well merits. After the product is manufactured



he has the refuse ground up and shipped to Chicago, where it is used in the manufacture of glass.

Mr. Comiskey is a Republican and has served his party as a delegate to conventions, but is not active in politics and does not care for office. In 1897 he built a neat residence at No. 304 South Water street, and here he and his wife (formerly Miss Mary Jane McGowan) and their children, Mary, J. Vinson and Dorothy, have a pleasant and comfortable home.

**L**EM NORTHAM, proprietor of Hotel Munroe, is one of the best known hotel men not only of Joliet, but also of northeastern Illinois. He is a member of a family that has been represented in New England ever since about the time of the "Mayflower." The first to leave Massachusetts for the west was his grandfather, Deacon Eli Northam, who settled in Dupage County, Ill., at an early day and remained there until his death. By his marriage to Jerusha Robbins he had a son, Robert R., who was born in North Adams, Mass., in 1818, and came west to Chicago in early manhood, entering the employ of the pioneer hardware firm of Hooker & Jones, in that city. Early in the '40s he settled in Wilmington, Will County, where he carried on a grain business with his brother Henry until the latter went to California in 1849. He came to Joliet in 1853 and opened a dry-goods store on Bluff street. About 1857 he removed to Wheaton, Ill., but the following year settled in Aurora, where he first conducted a meat market, then engaged in the restaurant business and later was interested in the wholesale fruit and provision business for many years. In 1885 he turned the business over to his son Lem and retired from active labors. Through all his busy life he took an interest in politics and kept posted on the issues before the people. Among the offices he held were those of deputy sheriff and justice of the peace. At the time of his death, in January, 1893, he was seventy-five years of age.

Robert R. Northam was twice married. By his first wife he had three sons. The oldest,

Richard M., now of Joliet, was a soldier in the Civil war, enlisting when a lad of sixteen. The second son, Edward D., lives in Chicago, and the youngest, William, was accidentally killed in that city. Of the second marriage there were born two sons, Lemual Robbins, of this sketch; and Robert, who was accidentally killed in Aurora in 1873. The second wife bore the maiden name of Louisa A. Hentze and was born in Brownsville, N. Y., a daughter of Henry and Charity (Gould) Hentze, natives of New England. Henry Hentze, who was of Hessian descent, was born in Rutland, Vt., and removed from there to New York. He brought his family to Chicago via the lakes, and was met in Chicago by his son-in-law, George Munroe, Sr., who brought them to Wilmington in a wagon. In 1852 he and Mr. Munroe went overland to California, making the trip with an ox-team, and mining there with fair success. He remained in the west until his death, but Mr. Munroe finally returned to Will County. In the family of Mr. Hentze were seven daughters and two sons, of whom four daughters are deceased. Mrs. Northam is still living and makes her home with her only surviving son.

The subject of this sketch was born in Aurora, Ill., September 9, 1860. When a boy he became interested in the produce business. He succeeded to the management of the business established by his father and continued it until 1891, when he sold out. Afterward he and his brother, Edward D., built the Evans grand opera house in Aurora and this they conducted until 1893, when they disposed of it to a syndicate. November 1, 1893, he came to Joliet as manager of Hotel Munroe, which he remodeled and improved, and to which he built an annex. The building stands on Chicago street, occupying the finest location in the city. It is acknowledged by all to be the most elegant as well as the leading hotel of the city. It contains one hundred and twelve rooms, of which eighty-six are guests' rooms. The building is heated by steam and lighted by electricity. Connected with the hotel are a first-class sample room and Turkish baths. The success of the business is due unquestionably to the foresight, energy and judgment of the manager, whose

genial manner makes a guest his friend, while the excellent management of the hotel at the same time wins the admiration of the most critical.

In 1898 Mr. Northam received from the mayor an appointment as member of the board of park commissioners, and on this board he has since served, being now interested in the improvement of the sixty acres comprising Highland park. As a Republican he is actively connected with local politics, and his aid is always to be relied upon by his party during important campaigns. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, Foresters and Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In religion he was reared in the faith of his ancestors, the Congregational denomination, and has always adhered to the doctrines of this church. During his residence in Aurora he was united in marriage with Miss Bertha L. Graves, who was born in Warrenville, Dupage County, Ill., and graduated from the West Aurora high school. She is a daughter of one of the pioneers of Dupage County, Capt. A. C. Graves, who won his title by his official service in the Union army during the Civil war.

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**COL. FRED BENNITT.** The Bennitt family is of English descent and was established in Massachusetts in 1634. Ephraim Bennitt, a native of Connecticut, made his home in Orange County, N. Y., during the Revolutionary war and took part in that historic struggle. After peace was restored he settled in the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania. His son, Daniel, who was born in Orange County, N. Y., was the father of twenty-three children, among the youngest of whom was Col. Benjamin Bennitt; the latter was born March 23, 1827, three miles north of Hammondsport, Steuben County, N. Y. When he was seven years old he accompanied his father and ten of the other children to Steuben County, Ind., but three years later his father died, the family became scattered and he made his home with a sister. He studied law in an

office in Hammondsport and later with Judge Comstock in Canandaigua, and was admitted to the bar March 6, 1850. With the exception of four years in the army his subsequent life was given to professional work in Hammondsport. For nearly thirty years he served as justice of the peace and for several terms he was justice of the sessions. As a lawyer he was thorough and conscientious in his work and showed a superior mind and strong will in his many contests in the courts. As a soldier he was enthusiastic and faithful to every duty. When Fort Sumter was fired upon, April 12, 1861, and the call for troops made on the 15th, he went to Bath and enlisted in Company A, Twenty-third New York Infantry, as a private. May 16 he was promoted to the rank of orderly sergeant and November 28 was made first lieutenant by Governor Morgan of New York. Among his engagements were those of Gowesville, Groveton, Rappahannock Crossing, second battle of Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. Returning home he was commissioned to organize a company of cavalry, and this company, with him as its captain, was mustered in at Rochester February 2, 1864, and incorporated with the Twenty-second New York Cavalry, joining the army of the Potomac, and taking part in the various engagements under Grant. The year that followed was one of great hardship for the company and its gallant captain; but, in spite of his sufferings (or, perhaps, on account of them) he could never be persuaded afterward to recount or, indeed, scarcely mention them. He took part in the twenty-seven days' battle in the Wilderness and assisted in General Wilson's dashing raid to Richmond. During that raid a part of Captain Bennitt's company was captured by Fitzhugh Lee, and of these thirty-one men, only twelve lived to return to their homes. For eight months he was confined in southern prisons and during that time his relatives did not know whether he was living or dead. Four times he escaped, but each time was recaptured. He was finally exchanged in 1865, and allowed to return home. He was commissioned major of the Twenty-second New York



Cavalry by the governor of New York and President Johnson brevetted him lieutenant-colonel for meritorious service. February 15, 1865, he was appointed inspector-general of the Twentieth Brigade of the National Guard of New York. After the war ended he resumed the pursuits of private life. He became active in the Grand Army of the Republic and was commander of the post in his home town. After a busy and useful life, he died August 24, 1889.

By the marriage of Ben Bennitt to Melinda Wheeler, which occurred February 8, 1854, two sons were born, Fred and Mark. The former was born in Hammondsport August 5, 1855. His education was begun in public schools and completed in Cornell University. In 1875 he came to Joliet and entered the law office of Judge Goodspeed. At the same time he followed the printer's trade in the office of the *Weekly Republican*. In September, 1876, he was admitted to the practice of law in this state. Since that time he has built up a large practice in all of the courts. Much of his practice is in the nature of counsel for corporations. He is attorney for the Joliet Gas Company, in which he holds the offices of secretary and director. He is also connected with other prominent enterprises in the city. In fact, every worthy movement for the advancement of the place has received his encouragement and aid. The cause of religion has in him a warm and steadfast friend, and the Episcopal Church, of which he is an official member, has been especially fortunate in receiving numerous evidences of his interest. He was married, April 19, 1883, to Miss Anne E., daughter of Samuel B. Reed. They have two children, Alice and Samuel B.

In 1877 Colonel Bennitt became a member of the State Militia. From that time to the present he has been more or less intimately connected with military affairs. His services during the Spanish-American war are fresh in the minds of all. It is but natural that a man of his character and mental attributes should be interested in public affairs. We find him a public-spirited citizen, though not a partisan. Prior to 1896 he supported Democratic principles. During that

year, when the Democratic party was divided over the silver question, he assisted in organizing the National Democratic party, which nominated Palmer and Bucker for president and vice-president. In the campaign that followed he took a leading part. He has often been selected to act as delegate to county and state conventions and has also held numerous local offices, including those of alderman and city attorney.

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**S**AMUEL BENEDICT REED was born in Arlington, Vt., November 18, 1818, a son of Thomas B. and Esther (Benedict) Reed, natives of New Hampshire. When he was a small child his parents settled near what is now Ottawa, Canada, but, not liking that country, they returned to the States, locating in western New York. In 1842 he was present at a celebration in honor of Lafayette. His education was obtained in public schools and an academy. While yet a boy he was employed as a rodman on the Erie Canal. In 1844 he accompanied the family to Joliet and soon afterward settled on a farm west of the city, which he still owns. His first railroad experience west of New York state was on the Detroit & Pontiac Railroad. Afterward he was with the Michigan Central system, later with the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern, which road he constructed into the city of Chicago, connecting that town for the first time with the east by rail. He was chosen civil engineer of the Rock Island Railroad, which he located out of Chicago on the old Oswego & Indiana and plank road charter. In selecting the route through Joliet he chose a line crossing Eastern avenue near Osgood street, but the people clamored for a railroad in the center of the village; consequently the line was changed as now located. From the eastern division of the Rock Island road he took up the construction of the division ending at the Mississippi River, thus completing the first railroad from the east to that river, and he also built the first bridge across the

river, it being at Rock Island. He engaged in constructing the Washington branch of the Rock Island and the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, which was the first to reach the Missouri River.

In 1864 Mr. Reed was commissioned to go to Salt Lake City and secure the aid of the military commander and Brigham Young in selecting a feasible route for a railroad through the Rocky Mountains. After two years of hardship and dangers he reported the route along which the Union Pacific road was later built. In 1866 he was made superintendent of construction of the last-named road. Under his supervision the work of building was pushed with remarkable energy and swiftness. The record of construction was eight miles and three thousand feet of railway in one day, a feat which has never been surpassed. Mr. Reed afterward stated that, had he been permitted, the railroad could have been completed as far west as the Humboldt Mountains instead of Promontory Point, one thousand and one hundred miles west of Omaha, where the two roads met in 1869. In this very responsible work, Mr. Reed was entrusted with millions of dollars. To this trust he proved most faithful. Only one man ever attempted to bribe him (although bribery was rampant at the time) and this man met with such serious consequences that he at once retired from business.

After the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad, Mr. Reed had charge of the building of the Illinois Central Railroad from Memphis to New Orleans. Afterward he was receiver of the old Chicago, Pekin & Southwestern Railroad. In 1883 he took charge of the work for the Canadian Pacific Railroad from Winnipeg west, but was compelled to give up the contract on account of illness. However, in 1884, when sixty-five years of age, he traversed on foot three hundred miles of almost trackless forest in British Columbia and reported upon what he regarded as the best route for the Canadian Pacific in its crossing of the Rocky Mountains, after the work had been abandoned by the British engineer. His report, when published in Canada, was the target of the most violent newspaper attacks and it was the consen-

sus of public opinion that his route was impracticable. In spite of that, the road was built as laid out by him and has been in successful operation ever since.

For some years Mr. Reed has spent his time in Joliet, where he is a most honored citizen. In the care of his farm, in the supervision of his financial interests, and in indulging his fondness for the study of plant life and natural history, the afternoon of his busy life is being happily passed. He was married at Geuseo, Ill., in 1855, his wife being Miss Jane E. Earl, who died in August, 1896. They became the parents of three daughters, one of whom is the wife of Col. Fred Bennitt, of Joliet; another married L. H. Hyde, and the third is Mrs. Jennie Dwight, of Denver, Colo.

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**F**ELIX INGOLDSBY, a retired farmer of Troy Township, is one of the oldest surviving residents of Will County, having settled here in 1844. He was born in Ireland in 1817, and grew to manhood in that country, remaining on a farm there until his emigration to America in 1842. He crossed the ocean in thirty days and anchored in New York, where he spent two years. From there he came to Illinois and settled in Joliet, where he was employed for five years. Meantime he bought eighty acres of land, which he rented. In 1849 he joined the great throng of gold-seekers and crossed the plains to California as a member of a party of about one hundred and thirty. For almost three years he engaged in mining, in which he met with fair success. On his return he came via the isthmus of Panama and Cuba and Jamaica, landing in New York. There he married, and accompanied by his wife, once more came to Will County, this time settling on section 29, Troy Township, where he now resides. He began with a farm of eighty acres and added to it from time to time until he acquired two hundred and forty acres, all of which is in one body. He made a specialty of cattle-raising, and also bought and sold horses, in which lines of work he made considerable money. At the



time of his settlement in Troy Township there were no improvements, land was raw, and neither canal nor railroad had been built. All of the improvements on his land were made by him personally, and the fine farm represents the results of his industry. Politically a Democrat, he served as highway commissioner and for sixteen years was justice of the peace. For fifty-five years he attended St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Joliet, but is now a member of St. Mary's in Minooka. In 1852, in New York, he married Cecilia Kiernan. They have three children: Anna Maria, Bernard and Margaret.

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JUDGE FRANCIS GOODSPEED, deceased, a pioneer of 1847 in Joliet, was born in Tioga County, Pa., January 25, 1821, a son of John Goodspeed, a merchant. He spent two years in Genesee Seminary at Lima, N. Y., after which he came to Joliet. He entered the office of Hon. Hugh Henderson and engaged in the study of law. In 1848 he was admitted to the bar. Shortly afterward he formed a partnership with another attorney, upon whose death he became a partner of Hon. Josiah McRoberts, and later was with Hon. Henry Snapp and Augustus F. Knox. In 1877, on the formation of this judicial circuit, he was elected to fill the new seat on the bench. In 1878 he was elected for a term of six years, and remained on the bench until June, 1884, when, owing to poor health, he resigned. During his earlier life he did much to promote the success of the Democratic party, and filled many positions of trust and responsibility within the gift of the same. In 1861 he was selected as delegate to the constitutional committee which met in Springfield, and he took an important part in the matters before that body. After the opening of the Civil war he affiliated with the Republican party. His service as mayor of Joliet was most satisfactory and the city advanced under his able direction. His influence was widely felt, both as attorney, jurist and private citizen.

In 1866 Judge Goodspeed erected a fine residence on South Chicago street, just south of

Joliet. This was at the time one of the finest houses in or near the city, and was provided with modern improvements, including hot and cold water and gas, the latter being furnished by his private gas plant. Surrounding the house were fifteen acres of ground, forming an ideal homestead. On the place Judge Goodspeed had a herd of fine Jersey cattle. He invested considerably in farm property, and his widow still owns some farm land, but she now makes her home on Union street, occupying a residence which the judge purchased in 1885 and in which his death occurred April 10, 1889. Mrs. Goodspeed was Frances Henderson, daughter of Dryden and Maria (Coe) Henderson, natives of Herkimer County, N. Y. She was born in Steuben County, N. Y., and became the wife of Judge Goodspeed in 1864. They were the parents of three sons: John C. (who died in October, 1883), Charles F. and Frederick.

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CHARLES B. GARNSEY was born in Lima, Livingston County, N. Y., October 25, 1842, a son of Nathan and Emily (Benedict) Garnsey, natives of Saratoga County, N. Y. His paternal grandfather, Nathan, changed the spelling of the family name from Garnesy to the form now in general use. The Garnesys originally came from England to Stamford, Conn., while the Benedicts were also early English settlers of Connecticut. The subject of this article was the oldest of three sons, two of whom are living. He was educated in public schools and the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary in Lima. May 7, 1859, was the date of his arrival at Wilmington, Will County, Ill. He worked on a farm and later clerked in a store there, thence went to Manteno, Kaneke County. In 1861 he entered the Union College of Law in Chicago, from which he graduated the next year with the degree of LL. B. In July, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, One Hundredth Infantry, and went to the front, where he took part in various engagements, including Stone River and Chattanooga, and participated in the Atlanta cam-

paign from Dalton to Atlanta, returning under Thomas to Nashville. In April, 1863, he was made commissary sergeant. In June, 1865, he was mustered out at Nashville, and on the 1st of July was discharged in Chicago.

August 7, 1865, Mr. Garnsey was admitted to the bar in Chicago. He began to practice in Joliet, having Thomas H. Breckenridge as partner from 1871 to 1875, after which he was alone until 1877, and then became a member of the firm of Garnsey & Knox. From 1867 to 1871 he was master in chancery for Will County. In 1877 he was elected corporation counsel of Joliet, which office he held for two years. In 1882 he was elected county judge, and four years later was re-elected, holding the office from December, 1882, to December, 1890. He is a member of the State Bar Association. In politics he is a Republican, and fraternally a Mason and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was married in Wilmington to Mary A. Henderson, who was born in Herkimer County, N. Y., and by whom he has two sons, John Henderson Garnsey, a partner of his father; and Charles B., Jr.

**ALFRED WENBERG.** During the period of his residence in Joliet Mr. Wenberg has been successfully engaged in contracting and building, and he is recognized as one of the experts in his chosen occupation. Among the contracts that he has filled may be mentioned the following: Beach block on Chicago street, Munroe Hall Annex, Reichmann and Abbott building on the corner of Chicago and Jefferson streets, Calmer building on Jefferson street, Farragut school, county sheriff's residence, the Barnes residence on Richards street, and considerable bridge work for bridge companies and the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad. He built a row of houses on Cass street, also the entire site of the stone quarry, and has engaged in building not only in this city and county, but also throughout northern Illinois.

Near Boros, Sweden, Mr. Wenberg was born April 25, 1858. He was one of five sons and

three daughters, of whom all the sons and one daughter came to America, and three sons are now living. John, who is now in Sweden, is a farmer and grist-miller; Frank, who was with Alfred, died in Joliet; Peter, who was also connected with Alfred in business, was the first of the family to pass from earth; Louis is a contractor in Indiana. The oldest brother, on coming to America, adopted the name of Wenberg, which the others later assumed. The father, Andrew Johnson, owned an estate in Sweden, where he died. The mother, Britta, was a daughter of Lars Hessleholmer, a large farmer; she is now living in Joliet, where she is known as Mrs. Wenberg, the name taken by her sons. In religion she is of the Lutheran faith.

At fifteen years of age our subject was apprenticed to the trade of a mason and bricklayer, at which he worked for some time. In 1880 he came to America and began to work at his trade in Joliet. His brother, John, who came to Illinois in 1869, returned to Sweden in 1874, and has since alternated between the two countries. About 1872 Peter came to Joliet, a year after his sister, Ida, had settled here. Frank, Louis, Alfred, with their mother, came in 1880. Afterward Alfred worked at his trade during the day and of evenings, for some time, attended a night school, in order to gain a knowledge of the English language and customs. In 1881 he bought a quarry on Cass street and Maple avenue, and with his brother, under the firm name of Wenberg Bros., began in the quarry business and contracting. In 1895 the quarry was worked out and he retired from the business. In 1883 he became interested in contracting in Englewood, Chicago, where he continued for four years, and then, returning to Joliet, continued contracting in this city. Since 1892 he has been alone in business. He is a member of the Joliet Builders' Association.

The various enterprises with which the Swedes of Joliet are identified find a warm friend in Mr. Wenberg. He holds membership in the Scandinavian Sick Benefit Association. He is identified with the Swedish Baptist Church and served as superintendent of the building committee at



the time of the erection of a house of worship. As trustee and treasurer he has been active in church work. He is one of the two survivors of the charter members of the congregation, and from the time of the starting of the church to the present day he has never weakened in his friendship for the church and his sympathy with its work. In the Sunday-school he has been an interested worker. Politically he is a Republican, and fraternally holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America.

**F**RANCIS WILLIAM PLANT, A. M., was born in Utica, N. Y., September 13, 1843, a son of James and Hannah A. (Mason) Plant. His father, also a native of Utica, born June 16, 1799, was a farmer in the suburbs of Utica until the growth of the city caused him to plat his land, which is now about the center of the town. He died there January 5, 1860. His wife was born May 19, 1812, and died August 1, 1890. They had two children, Helen, wife of Thomas D. Catlin, of Ottawa, Ill., and Francis William. James was a son of Benjamin Plant, who removed from Connecticut to New York; he married Lucinda, daughter of Stephen and Sarah (Lindsley) Potter. Mr. Potter held a commission in the war of 1812 as captain.

After graduating from Utica Academy in 1860 our subject entered Hamilton College in Clinton, N. Y., from which he graduated in 1864 with the degree of A. B. He was a classmate of the present secretary of war, Elihu Root, and other men now well known. For two years he was connected with a bank in Utica, after which he engaged in the book and stationery business as a member of the firm of Davis, Gilbert & Plant. In 1869 he moved from Utica to Joliet, where he engaged in the lumber business with T. A. Mason and H. B. Plant. At a subsequent date the firm became F. W. & H. B. Plant, and they engaged in the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds and built up a large planing mill business. For many years he was also president of the People's Building & Loan Association.

In Brooklyn, N. Y., October 16, 1866, Mr. Plant married Miss Elizabeth Merle, who was born in New York City November 17, 1845, and died in Joliet April 23, 1889. They had five children, Helen Merle, Laura, Grace, James Merle and Anna. For years Mr. Plant was a member of the vestry of Christ Episcopal Church, and at the time of the building of the church he aided as a member of the building committee. Politically he is a Republican. In 1867 the degree of A. M. was conferred upon him by his alma mater.

Henry B. Plant, who was our subject's partner in business, was a son of Benjamin and Sarah (Mason) Plant, and was born January 11, 1831. His first work was under his uncle, R. B. Mason, in the building of an eastern railroad. After coming west he was employed on the surveying corps of the Illinois Central Railroad under his uncle; subsequently he was an officer with the Wabash Railroad Company. For some time he carried on a bank business in Hastings, Minn. During the Civil war he was a lieutenant in an Illinois battery. Afterward he was in business in Cairo, Ill., and then came to Joliet, where he carried on a lumber business with our subject. He held the receivership of the Taylor coal mine at Lasalle and later was manager of coal mines at What Cheer, Iowa. His last years were spent on a ranch on the North Platte River in Nebraska. His widow now makes her home in Champaign, Ill.

**W**ALTER H. ROWLEY, assessor of Homer Township, was born in 1860 on the farm where he now lives. His father, Alfred G., a native of Ontario County, N. Y., accompanied his parents to Will County at nine years of age and spent the remainder of his life in Homer Township. From the time he became of age until his death he served as justice of the peace; for some years was supervisor and assessor, also held other local offices. He was active in the Baptist Church. He died in 1887, at the age of sixty-three. His father, Capt. Jairah Rowley, was the son of an Englishman

and was born in New York in 1777. During the war of 1812 he was a captain. He was a large contractor in the building of the Erie canal. In 1833 he came to Will County and settled near Lockport, on a farm now occupied by Frank Rowley, buying land from the government at \$1.25 an acre. Afterward he bought a large tract in Homer Township. He was one of the first settlers at what was known as Big Yankee settlement. The mother of our subject bore the name of Lydia Hall Lanfear and was born in New York; she is now living at the old homestead with our subject. Her father, Asa Lanfear, was born in New York and came to Illinois in 1835, settling in Homer Township and buying land at the first land sale in Chicago.

Calvin Rowley, the eldest son of Captain Rowley, came to Will County about 1830 and engaged in trading with the Indians, having a store near what is now Lockport. After some years he went to Rockford, Ill., where he died at seventy-eight years. He had made several trips to California, the first being in 1849, after which he returned east with considerable gold.

The education of our subject was obtained in the Englewood high school and the Metropolitan business college of Chicago. For two years he was employed in a grocery in Joliet. In 1880 he returned to the homestead and has since carried on general farming and stock-raising. After his father died, the office of justice of the peace being thus rendered vacant, he was commissioned to the office, which he has since held. For five years he was secretary and treasurer of the Homer Mutual Fire Insurance Company. In 1897 and 1899 he was elected township assessor.

**P. COLE**, one of the enterprising farmers of Manhattan Township, was born on a farm situated a few miles from his present home. He is a son of Thomas Cole, who came to this county in a very early day and for years was one of the prosperous and prominent farmers of his locality. From his earliest recollections our subject has been familiar with his present sur-

roundings. His boyhood days were spent on his father's farm. Like many of the country boys, he assisted on the farm during summers and attended the district school in the winter months, acquiring a practical education. He naturally grew into the ways of farm life and, arriving at man's estate, chose agriculture for his occupation. In his farm work he has shown evidence of good judgment, and by his industry and energy has already acquired a high position as a progressive agriculturist. About 1894 he moved to his father-in-law's farm, and here he has since engaged in general farming and in raising a fine quality of live stock.

In politics Mr. Cole is a staunch Republican and his voice has often been heard advocating the principles of his chosen party. In local matters he is especially active, aiding as far as possible such measures as have for their object the promotion of the welfare of the people. He married the only daughter of Aaron Greenwood, who is a resident of Manhattan, and whose sketch appears in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Cole have two children.

**NELS BENSSON**, who for years has held the position of engineer of the Joliet city water works, is the oldest engineer in this place in point of years of active business experience, and he is also recognized as one of the most efficient as well. At once after coming to America in 1878 he settled in Joliet, and here his home has since been made. For three months he worked in the blast furnace, and then, the water works being under process of construction, he was given employment as fireman, which position he held for three and one-half years. Since then he has been engineer and superintendent of machinery, holding the position through all the changes in the political administration of the city.

Successive generations of the Bensson family owned the estate called "Böglaxehutt," at Skåne, Christianstad, Sweden. There John Bensson, Sr., was born and engaged in farming. He was succeeded by his son, John, Jr., who married



Karina Munson, daughter of a farmer in Rönnebode. They became the parents of eight children, all but one of whom are still living, four in Sweden, and a son and two daughters in Joliet. The subject of this sketch was born at the family homestead August 11, 1853, and remained there until twenty years of age, after which he served for two years in the Swedish army. At the age of twenty-three he hired as a farm hand, but after a year went to Stockholm and secured work in a large machine shop, where he learned the machinist's and engineer's trades. For two and one-half years he was employed as engineer on the Swedish Railroad between Stockholm and Gottenburg. On resigning his position he came to America to seek a livelihood in this country. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran Church and for some time has been one of its trustees; also served upon the building committee at the time of the erection of the house of worship. He is a member of the North Star Association, and politically gives his support to the Republican party.

In a residence which he built, on the corner of Clay street and Youngs avenue, Mr. Bensson has for some years made his home. He was married in this city to Miss Nellie Nilson, who was born in Skåne, Sweden, being a daughter of Peter Nilson, a woodworker in that town. The two children born of their marriage are Nels Victor and Clara Mabel.

**F**RANK NEWKIRK. There are comparatively few who pause to consider our indebtedness to railroad engineers. In the darkness of the night and in the midst of wind or rain or snow, they carry safely the human beings committed to their care; and, when we reflect upon the small number of accidents in proportion to the number of trains, we are constrained to say that, as a class, engineers are the most trustworthy men in the world. Certainly such a statement may be made with truth concerning Mr. Newkirk, who is an engineer between Joliet and Chicago, and whose home is at No. 308 Richards street, Joliet.

Concerning the genealogy of the Newkirk family, reference is made in the sketch of James E. Newkirk. Our subject was born on the home farm adjoining Joliet in 1858 and grew to manhood on the same place, meantime attending district schools. His first work was as teamster for the Joliet Stone Company. In January, 1884, he became fireman on the old Chicago, Pekin & Southwestern Railroad between Chicago and Pekin, being first on the freight and later on the passenger train. For some months, during 1886, he was employed in the Streator shops, and afterward was an engineer on a switch engine in the Streator yards for six weeks. His next position was that of engineer on the freight train between Pekin and Chicago. After two and one-half years he was made passenger engineer and ran between Joliet and Chicago, then between Chicago and Pekin. His next position was as engineer on the passenger train between Chicago and Fort Madison, a run of two hundred and forty miles, making four hundred and eighty miles on the round trip. Since June, 1899, he has run between Joliet and Chicago. An exceedingly careful and painstaking man, he has had no fatal accidents, and those he has had were the result of the negligence of others, not through any fault of his own. At Lorenzo, in 1888, his car was wrecked, but no one was injured but himself, and his injuries were slight. April 28, 1899, a stock car was blown from a siding to the main track, and his train ran into it, but no one was hurt.

Besides his other interests, Mr. Newkirk is a stockholder in the Keltie Stone Company. He was raised a Mason in Mount Joliet Lodge No. 42, A. F. & A. M., and is also connected with Joliet Chapter No. 27, R. A. M., and Joliet Commandery No. 4, K. T. He is a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. In politics he votes the Republican ticket in both local and national elections. November 16, 1887, in Lemont, Illinois, he married Miss Alice Neill, who was born there, and by whom he has two children, Fred Hallock and Ruth. Mrs. Newkirk is a member of the Eastern Star and the

Ladies' Order of Maccabees, and in religion is identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The grandfather of Mrs. Newkirk, John Neill, was a blacksmith in Perth, Scotland, but after coming to America engaged in farming in Caledonia, Wis., where he died. His widow, Margaret, is still living in Wisconsin. Both were Presbyterians from their childhood days. James B. Neill, Mrs. Newkirk's father, was born in Perthshire and settled in Wisconsin when twenty years of age, but afterward went back east and married in New York. During the Civil war he served as captain of Company C, New York Infantry, from 1861 to 1865, and was wounded while in the service. After the war he settled in Lemont, Ill., and worked as a blacksmith. He is now living, retired, on the west side in Joliet. He is connected with the Grand Army of the Republic. He had five children by his marriage to Hannah Hallock, who was born in New York state; her father, Josiah Hallock, who was a native of Vermont, removed thence to New York and later carried on a hotel business in Lemont, after which he was proprietor of the Auburn house in Joliet; he died in Lemont.

**T**HOMAS B. STANNER has been one of the most successful farmers of Dupage Township. While he was not obliged, as are many, to start in life wholly unaided, yet he none the less deserves credit for the success he has gained. When he began for himself his father gave him eighty acres of land in this township. With this for a beginning, he steadily worked his way forward, by industry and good judgment adding to his holdings, until his property now represents thousands of dollars. In his home farm he has one hundred and sixty acres, and also owns an eighty-acre farm, besides valuable property in Columbus, Ohio, and nine buildings in Romeoville, Will County. He has rented his farm and expects to remove to Chicago, with the intention of spending his declining years in retirement, surrounded by the comforts his industry has made possible.

Mr. Stanner was born in Chicago November 11, 1837. His father, Martin, was a native of England, and engaged in farming in Ireland, where he was also a collector of rents and taxes. About 1835 he came to America, accompanied by his wife. He settled in Chicago and secured work in a brewery. He was offered the lots where the McCormick factory now stands in payment for one week's work, but refused to take them. From Chicago he came to Dupage Township, working for a farmer at Barber's Corner. Later he bought a claim of fifty acres, which he brought under cultivation. He then bought a tract just east of the Indiana boundary. His next purchase was one hundred and two acres, which he improved, and on which he made his home until the outbreak of the Civil war. After a short visit to Ireland he enlisted in Washington, D. C., and was a member of the guard at Booth's grave. While with General Rosecrans in Texas he was three times taken a prisoner, but each time was exchanged. His service was principally in the west and southwest. At the close of the war he enlisted in the regular army, and was assigned to Columbus, Ohio, where he had charge of the engines, etc., at the barracks. He stood high among the other officers, and was given many privileges not usually accorded soldiers. While on duty at Columbus he died suddenly of heart-disease, when sixty-three years of age.

The mother of our subject was Mary Cain, a native of Ireland. Like her husband, she was a faithful adherent of the Catholic Church. Her death occurred on the home farm in this county when she was sixty-seven years of age. Of her six children, four attained mature years. The eldest of these was Thomas B., of this sketch. He took charge of the home farm when his father enlisted in the army, and subsequently maintained its supervision, having resided here ever since with the exception of two years in Chicago. During that time he was proprietor of the Hatch house, but not finding the occupation congenial he sold the place and returned to his farm. Both he and his wife are Roman Catholics. For several years he held the office of chief ranger in the



Catholic Order of Foresters. In politics he is a Democrat in national affairs, but liberal in local matters. For seventeen years he held office as justice of the peace, a position that he filled with excellent judgment, tact and impartiality.

By the marriage of Mr. Stanner to Annie E., daughter of Martin Dixon, six children were born, namely: Fannie and Nellie, both of whom are married; Martin C., who died at twenty-one years of age; Kittie, who was four years old at the time of her death; Thomas, who operates a farm belonging to his father in this township; John B., now of Chicago, who enlisted in the Seventh Cavalry during the Spanish-American war and served until he was honorably discharged in Cuba, April 3, 1899; James E. and Louella, both at home.

**H**ON. URI OSGOOD came to Joliet in June, 1836, when this now large and flourishing city was an insignificant hamlet. As the town increased in size his influence as a citizen grew. He was elected to various offices, and from 1854 to 1860 served as a member of the state senate. In 1860 he was the Democratic candidate for congress from this district, but was defeated by Owen Lovejoy. Afterward he engaged in the general practice of law until his death, February 8, 1871. During the entire period of his residence in Joliet he resided at the corner of Jefferson street and Eastern avenue. January 1, 1839, he married Miss Caroline V. Aldrich. They had a family of eight children, five of whom were living at the time of Mr. Osgood's death, namely: Augustus A., Algernon S., and Henry R., of Chicago; Virginia A., wife of George S. House, of Joliet; and Emma A., who married Charles Seymour, of Batavia, N. Y., later of Oakland, Cal.

**F**ENNER ALDRICH was born in Massachusetts in 1803 and was a member of a pioneer family of New England. His parents, David and Mary (Capron) Aldrich, removed to Pennsylvania and settled on a large tract of land near

Harper, Susquehanna County, where they spent their remaining years. Their children afterward removed to northern Illinois, and one son, Levi, went to California in 1852.

In October, 1834, Fenner Aldrich came to Illinois and settled in Will (then a part of Cook) County. Before the separation of the territory into two counties he served as deputy sheriff. He was proprietor of two hotels, the Juliet house and the Exchange house. In 1836 he was elected sheriff of Will County. Three years later he was re-elected. As a county officer and as a hotel proprietor he became widely acquainted throughout northern Illinois, and his friends were as numerous as his acquaintances. For a time he conducted the St. Nicholas house in Springfield, but, preferring Joliet as a place of residence, he returned and conducted the Exchange house during the remainder of his active life. In politics he was a Democrat, in religion a Universalist. He died August 5, 1884. His wife, who was a daughter of Sylvanus Wade, a Revolutionary soldier, passed away February 16, 1872.

**J** STANLEY BROWN, for seven years past the principal of the Joliet high school, was born near Cumberland, Ohio, September 13, 1863, a son of George W. and Lorinda A. (Robinson) Brown. He was one of a family of four sons and two daughters, four of whom are living, namely: Alma, wife of James Paisley, a business man of High Hill, Ohio; J. Stanley; Floyd, who lives in Peru, Ind., and is engaged in railroading; and Alice, the widow of Frederick Simms, and a resident of Cumberland, Ohio. In tracing the history of the Brown family back to its early settlement in America we find that this branch of the family was represented in Virginia in colonial days. William Brown, who was the son of a Revolutionary soldier (a member of a gallant Virginia brigade) was born in Loudoun County, Va., in 1798, and grew to manhood on a plantation. While he was still a boy the war of 1812 occurred and he went to the front as a soldier in the American cause. It will thus

be seen that patriotism and personal courage are family characteristics. On his return home he took up the ordinary routine of plantation life, the even tenor of which was later interrupted by his marriage to Miss Maria Graham. Shortly afterward he and his wife migrated to Ohio and settled near Cumberland, Muskingum County, in a region remote from civilization and bearing little trace of its subsequent development. Entering a section of land he began the pioneer task of grubbing, clearing and cultivating his property. With the subsequent increase of the value of the land his own fortunes were enhanced, and at the time of his death he was well-to-do. A man of influence he held many local offices and took an active part in the Republican party and its work in his county. After a busy and useful existence, the latter part of which was spent in the enjoyment of every comfort, he died in 1869.

After the family had settled in Muskingum County, George W. Brown was born in 1830. There he grew up, studying in neighboring schools, where the course of study was limited to drills in the "three R's." Subsequently, however, by self-culture and the development of his vigorous mind, he acquired a knowledge that was profound and varied. No startling events have marked his career. He still lives on the spot where his childhood days were passed and where his father settled on moving from Virginia. Like all the members of the family concerning whom anything is known, he is a pronounced Republican and has never swerved from that faith. For many years he has been a member of the Republican central committee of his county. Among the offices he has held are those of school commissioner and overseer of the poor, both of which he filled efficiently and for some years. In his daily life he has exemplified the sincerity of his religious belief. He is a member of the Baptist Church and a contributor to its works. During the many years of his life as an agriculturist he has been prospered financially, and has also gained that which is more to be desired than riches—the respect of his associates and the warm esteem of his friends.

The first marriage of George W. Brown,

occurring in 1857, united him with Lorinda A. Robinson, who was born near High Hill, Ohio, in 1841 and died near Cumberland in 1869. Her father, Samuel Robinson, who was of Pennsylvania-Dutch ancestry, removed to Ohio with his parents about 1845, and in later years became a prominent stock dealer of his locality, buying stock and driving them to Pittsburg for sale. He died in 1897, when in his seventy-seventh year. After the death of our subject's mother his father married a second time, choosing as his wife Martha Alexander. Three children were born of their marriage, two of whom survive, viz.: Dwight, at home; and Jennie, wife of John Hall, a merchant at Renrock, Ohio.

Since he was seventeen years of age J. Stanley Brown has been a teacher, and it was through his early efforts as an instructor in country and village schools that he earned the means necessary for the completion of his education. It was his determination to acquire a thorough education. Therefore he read only the best books and studied only the standard authors. For six years he was a student in Dennison University at Granville, Ohio, from which he graduated in 1889 with the degree of A. B. During his course he gained every honor that was offered and stood at the head of his class. Prior to his graduation he was elected to the chair of Latin and Greek in Blandville (Ky.) College, which he accepted, remaining for one year, and then resigning in order to accept the management of a similar college at Arlington, Ky. The latter position he filled for three years. From it he went to Oregon as president of the State Normal School in The Dalles, Oregon, and from there came to Joliet in 1893. Wherever he has been located there has been a noticeable increase in the enrollment of students. He started at Arlington with seventy-five, and when he left there, three years later, the enrollment was three hundred, this remarkable increase being almost wholly due to his skill as a teacher. When he came to Joliet there were less than two hundred in the high school and six teachers were employed. Since then the school has grown wonderfully in reputation and importance, while its enrollment



for 1899-1900 was five hundred and fifty pupils, with fourteen teachers. A tribute to the ability of the principal is the success of the work. Incidentally it may be mentioned that every year but two since he came to Joliet he has received an increase of salary. The high school is the largest township high school in the United States and one of the most prosperous as well. Recently a contract has been let for the erection of a new building to cost \$140,000 and accommodate twelve hundred students. Since 1893 the graduating classes have more than doubled in size. Graduates are admitted without examination to any college that will admit students on certificates, and graduates are accepted into Yale after successful examination. The majority of recent graduates are now in attendance upon some higher institution of learning.

In Indianapolis, Ind., December 26, 1891, Mr. Brown married Miss Lettie May Seitz, daughter of Henry and Mary (Shear) Seitz, of Chicago. She was for two years a student in DePauw University and later taught in Arlington College. Her maternal ancestors came from Holland and settled at Coryman's Hollow, N. Y., later generations taking a prominent part in public affairs in that locality. Her grandfather, Israel Shear, was known as Colonel Shear, and it is thought that he was an officer in the Revolution. One of his sons, John Blodgett Shear, was chief of scouts connected with the regular army, located in Colorado for a number of years. After his retirement from the army he became interested in mining and owned a number of valuable silver mines.

Three children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Castle, Virgil and Jean (deceased.)

**J** F. WILSON. The subject of this sketch was born in Candia, N. H., and at the age of four years came with his father's family to Illinois and settled in the eastern part of Will County. Subsequently the family removed to Joliet Township and in 1862 he came to Joliet.

His first start in business life was in the organization of the firm of G. Munroe & Son, general merchants, with whom he remained for four years. Subsequently was engaged for three years in the manufacture and sale of agricultural implements.

Entering the office of the Joliet Iron & Steel Company, he was made acting secretary of the company in 1877, and upon its reorganization as the Joliet Steel Company in 1879 became office manager and assistant to the general superintendent. He continued in this capacity until appointed auditor of the Illinois Steel Company in 1891, which position is held by him at the present time.

Mr. Wilson is an active, progressive business man, and has added many important improvements in the business methods of his company.

**W**ILLIAM W. GREENWOOD, who has devoted his entire active life to farm pursuits in New Lenox Township, was born in 1846 near the place where he now resides. He is a son of John and Mary Ann (Brown) Greenwood, and a grandson of John Greenwood, Sr., whose last days were spent in America in the home of his son. His father, a native of Herefordshire, England, came to the United States at the age of seventeen, and for a short time was employed in the salt works in New York. About 1846 he settled in what is now Will County, Ill., where at first he worked for Judge Davidson, and afterward purchased eighty acres in Joliet Township. The last few years of his life were spent in the city of Joliet, where he died in 1885, at the age of sixty-eight. Throughout all of his active life he followed agricultural pursuits and was an industrious, persevering man. His wife died in 1874, when fifty-five years of age. They were the parents of thirteen children, but only two are living, William W. and George, both of New Lenox Township.

Alternating attendance at the common schools with work on the home farm our subject passed

the years of youth. As there was an immense amount of work connected with the clearing and improving of the home farm he had little opportunity to engage in the usual sports of boyhood, and his attendance at school was limited to the three winter months. When he was twenty-one years of age he began in the world for himself and has since conducted farm pursuits, in which he has met with fair success. He is one of the oldest native-born citizens of his township, and is among the most industrious as well. He has served as a member of the school board and for three years was highway commissioner on New Lenox Township. The various movements for the benefit of the community find him to be a loyal friend and helper, and his influence may always be relied upon to advance worthy enterprises. In February, 1869, he was united in marriage with Mary, daughter of Cyrus A. Lewis. They are the parents of three children, Archie W., Lewis Leroy (better known as Roy), and Grace E.

**AUGUSTUS B. COTTON**, supervisor of Wheatland Township and a resident here since 1841, was born on the Isle of Wight, England, September 14, 1828. His father, William, brought the family to America in 1841 and settled in Will County, where the next year he bought forty acres. This he at once began to improve. Later he added to the estate. In 1861 he returned to England, where he continued to reside until his death in 1870. In religion he was a Baptist. By his marriage to Jane Britt he had eight children, of whom our subject was the fourth. When he came to this locality all the surroundings were those of the frontier. On this side of the river there was but one house between the Cotton homestead and Plainfield. All was new. After his father returned to England he succeeded to the management of the farm, which he operated until about 1890, and then rented the land, since which time he has been retired from active cares. He is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of tillable land. Politically a Republican, he has served his party as delegate to

county conventions. For thirty-four years he held office as justice of the peace, for ten years has been township supervisor, long served as school trustee and has also been town clerk. In December, 1860, he married Georgiana Robbins, whose father came from England in 1843; she was born in England and died in this county in April, 1897.

**JOHN M. JONES**, general manager of the Great Western works of the American Tin Plate Company, was born in Averavon, South Wales, December 4, 1868. His father, David Jones, a native of St. Clairs, Wales, was taken in infancy to Cwm Avon, where he was reared and educated. He was only nine years of age when he started to work at the tin plate business. At the same time he continued his studies unassisted, acquiring through his own efforts a broad general knowledge. Taking up the tin plate business as a boy, he learned it thoroughly in all its details. He steadily worked his way up until he was manager of more than forty-five hundred men, having the supervision of two of the largest mills there. He did much for the support and benefit of the Episcopal Church in his town and served it as a warden. While often urged to accept offices, his work demanded his entire attention, and he steadily refused all offers of political preferment. In Cwm Avon he married Sarah Davis, who was then only sixteen years of age. Nine children were born to their union. The eldest, his father's namesake, was manager of a tin plate mill in Wales, but is now in America. The oldest daughter, Maggie Jones-Morewood, deceased, was one of the most noted soprano soloists in the United Kingdom and often sang with such prima donnas as Patti; she was given three medals (of bronze, silver and gold respectively) by the Royal Academy of London. The second daughter, Sarah, who is the wife of I. L. Jones, manager of Welden & Co., Pittsburg, Pa., also possesses a beautiful voice, but sings only for charity; she has a medal presented to her by the Musical College of London. The other members of the family are John



M.; Thomas, who is engaged in the tin plate business in Pittsburg; Gwennie Violet; and Eben, also a tin plate manufacturer.

At twelve years of age the subject of this sketch went to Swansea and attended Arnold College, from which he graduated before he was fourteen. Entering the mills, he learned the business in all its details, starting in the humblest position and following all departments of the work until he had gained a comprehensive knowledge of the same. He had the benefit of the experience and knowledge of his elder brother and his father, and he became a practical and skilled workman. After the death of his father in 1891, he went to Penclawdd. Just prior to the twenty-third anniversary of his birth he was appointed superintendent of the Grower Iron and Tin Plate Company, in which capacity he remained nineteen months. He was then promoted and sent by the company to their Manon Tin and Sheet works at Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England, as a manager of the same. He continued the position until he came to the United States in 1895. He went to Pittsburg expecting to take a position as manager of a large plant, but the position had been filled. He then went to Middletown, Ind., to take charge of the cold roll department of the Irondale Steel and Iron Company. Four months later he was made night superintendent and after another four months was tendered the position of manager. His promotion was due solely to his knowledge of the business and his faithfulness to the trust reposed in him, for he was a stranger and had no friends to assist him in getting a start.

In July, 1897, Mr. Jones came to Joliet as superintendent of the Great Western Tin Plate Company, having practically all the responsibilities of manager. Upon the consolidation of the company with the American Tin Plate Company, he was made general manager in name, as he had previously been in fact. He is also the district manager, subject only to the general officers in Pittsburg. The mill in Joliet employs three hundred hands and its output is large. That his management is entirely satisfactory is evidenced by the fact that the owners of the plant never

come to Joliet, but rely entirely upon him for every detail and the entire management. He is a stockholder in the mill, as well as its manager.

Fraternally Mr. Jones is connected with Middletown Lodge No. 271, A. F. & A. M. Though not active in politics, he is a staunch Republican. In religion he is of the Episcopal faith. He married in Swansea, South Wales, in August, 1894, to Decima Margaretta Griffith, daughter of a physician of that place. He is very fond of athletics and sports. At one time he was an enthusiastic bicyclist, with a fine record for speed, having won thirty-eight medals in England, Ireland, Scotland and France. In 1887 he won a record for the fastest time that had up to that year been made in a twenty-five mile race. He also won twenty first prizes in swimming contests and several prizes in tennis. He was a member of the Swansea Athletic Club and the Swansea Amateur Cyclists' Club, in which he served both as captain and secretary. Many of his leisure hours were passed in yachting or bicycling, while he also was fond of playing tennis and cricket, but since coming to this country he has been less active in sports, though his fondness for them has not been diminished in the least.

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JOHN BEDFORD, an early settler of Plainfield Township, was born in Lincolnshire, England, September 28, 1828. In March, 1852, he set sail from Liverpool for New York on the sailing vessel, "Lady Ashburton," and after landing in this country proceeded to Illinois, finding work on a farm in Will County. In 1855 he returned to England and married Miss Ann Foulston, a native of Lincolnshire. With his wife he crossed the ocean in March, 1856, on the "Neptune," and settled in Lockport, Ill., where he was employed as a stationary engineer for a few years. Later he resumed farming. In 1876 he bought a farm of ninety-two acres four miles from Plainfield and eight miles from Joliet. There he remained until his death, which occurred March 28, 1880. He left, besides his wife, a family of four children: Albert F., Wal-

ter S., Lizzie J. and Sarah J. He was a man of irreproachable character and upright life, and was highly esteemed by the people of his township.

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**H**IRAM TWINING, a pioneer of Greengarden Township, was born in Essex County, Mass., in 1819, and was reared in New Hampshire and Vermont. He married a daughter of Isaac Needham, and in 1851, with his wife and two children came west, settling on one hundred and sixty acres of government land in Greengarden Township. At once he began to break ground, using for the purpose an ox-team and a Lockport steel plow made by "Jim" Lane. Later he added one hundred and sixty acres of land to his original possessions, and built a set of farm buildings. He engaged in raising cattle and had a number of high grade and full-blood animals on his place. He was a man who stood high in his community. For one term he served as justice of the peace. A man of earnest Christian character, he endeavored in his life to exemplify the teachings of the Scriptures. The sincere and earnest Christian spirit he showed throughout all the vicissitudes of life was his by inheritance, for his father, Rev. Jonathan Twining, was a faithful preacher and self-sacrificing Christian.

The death of Mr. Twining took place December 14, 1889. He was survived by his widow and five children: Watson F., Dana E., Leonora L., Irene E. and Jasper E.

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**F**RANK STATES, one of the enterprising and prosperous German-American farmers of Channahon Township, was born in Baden, Germany, March 13, 1835, the only child of George and Josephine (Wachter) States, also natives of Baden. His mother died in 1847, and the following year his father was called out to take part in the revolution of 1848, where he served until he was severely wounded and forced to resign. In the fall of the same year he came to America and settled near Flushing, L. I.,

where he died from the effects of his army wounds some six months afterward. By trade he was a miller. His death left his son an orphan, alone in a strange country, and but thirteen years of age. The boy started up the Hudson River and went as far as Peekskill, near which place he secured work with John Croker, a brother of Richard Croker, of Tammany Hall fame. After remaining there for some five years, in 1853 he came west and settled in Aurora, Ill., where he was employed in burning lime and as a stone and brick mason.

In 1857 Mr. States married Miss Jane Benedict, a native of Milan, Cayuga County, N. Y., and a daughter of Elijah and Sarah (Branch) Benedict. Her father, a native of Essex County, N. Y., born in 1799, grew to manhood in his native county and married Miss Branch, who was born in East Genoa, N. Y., in 1802. Afterward he settled in Cayuga County, where he preached in the Baptist Church until failing health obliged him to give up ministerial work. Later he was employed as a bookkeeper. In 1848 he settled in Oswego, Ill. Two years later he removed to Aurora, where he soon died. His wife passed away in 1885. She was a daughter of Samuel and Ruth Branch; the former, a soldier in the Revolutionary war, died about 1841; the latter survived him many years, living to be about ninety. By the marriage of Mr. States to Miss Benedict two children were born, but Frank, Jr., is the only one now living. Mrs. States died in 1863 and two years later our subject married her sister, Mrs. Sarah Lowe, by whom he had six children. Four are now living, John, a farmer in this county; Edwin, William and Walter, at home.

In 1859 our subject went to Kansas and settled in Marysville, Marshall County. Those were troubled days in the history of Kansas, and his object in going there was to cast his influence in with the free-state party. In 1861 he returned to Illinois and settled in this county. After a time he bought eighty acres of land in Channahon Township, where he now lives. Through his farming and stock-raising interests he has prospered, and he also gave considerable attention to



work as a mason. As the years passed he acquired additional property and now owns three hundred and sixty-eight acres, which represents his constant labor and good management. It has been his aim to help his sons in every way possible, and each of them, when fifteen or sixteen years of age, was given a tract of ground to cultivate and allowed to keep the profits accruing from the same.

In politics Mr. States is a Republican. He is a patriotic citizen of his adopted country and supports all measures in the interest of good government. For thirty-six years he has served as a school director and for six years he held the office of school trustee. Fraternally he is connected with Channahon Lodge No. 262, A. F. & A. M. A man of religious convictions and a believer in the doctrines of Christianity, he has contributed both to Methodist and Presbyterian churches in his home neighborhood and has aided both in their work.

**A**UGUST BELTZNER, superintendent of the Meeker avenue (or, as it is more commonly known, the Spring street) mill of the American Steel and Wire Company of Joliet, was born in Baden, Germany, August 1, 1844. His father, William, a blacksmith by trade, participated in the revolution of 1848, for which reason he left Germany and came to America. He opened a shop in Mauch Chunk, Pa., and secured all of the trade of the Lehigh Navigation Company, in addition to his custom work. He continued there until his retirement from business. After his wife died he made his home with his son, August, in Johnstown, Pa., where he died September 9, 1893, aged sixty-seven years and three months. His body was taken to Mauch Chunk and buried by the side of his wife. When he first came to America he allied himself with the Democrats, but at the time of the Civil war and during Lincoln's candidacy for president he allied himself with the Republican party and afterward adhered to its principles. In religion he was of the Lutheran faith. By his marriage

to Elizabeth Kuntzman he had eight children, all still living; one son, Charles, carries on business at the old shop in Mauch Chunk.

At the time the family came to the United States our subject was little more than six years of age. He was reared in Mauch Chunk and learned the blacksmith's trade with his father. At the same time he learned wire drawing. When the war opened his sympathies were entirely with the Union. In 1862 he enlisted in the One Hundred and Thirty-second Pennsylvania Regiment, and served in that regiment for nine months. On the expiration of his time he enlisted in the One Hundred and Eighty-sixth Infantry for three years, or until the close of the war. Among his most important engagements were those at Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, in the last of which he was wounded. At the close of the rebellion he returned home, where he served four years at the trade of boiler-making. This occupation he afterward followed in Mauch Chunk and at Summit Hill for the Lehigh Navigation Company, having charge of the boiler shop about two years. On his return to Mauch Chunk he worked in a wire mill for one and one-half years. For thirteen years he was with the Cambria Iron Company of Johnstown, and during the last eleven of these years he was foreman of the company's wire mill. When the great flood came he had charge of the men who were engaged in rebuilding the mill, but as the catastrophe changed the company's plans and the mill was not completed, he left the town.

Coming to Joliet in 1892, Mr. Beltzner took charge of the Ashley wire mill. He has since had charge of the mill, which is now the property of the American Steel and Wire Company. Under his supervision are sixty-five men, whose work he oversees, showing good judgment and great energy in the exercise of his duties. In national affairs he votes with the Republicans, but in local matters he votes for the man rather than party. For years he was active in local affairs, serving as delegate to conventions, member of committees, etc. While in Johnstown he joined the Masonic order, and is also a member

of the Knights of the Golden Eagle. Until coming to Illinois he was identified with the Lutheran Church, but since then he has had his membership in the Presbyterian Church.

At Mauch Chunk, January 9, 1868, Mr. Beltzner married Miss Christiana Theaubaugh, of that city. Ten children were born of their union, viz.: Elizabeth C., wife of Harry Clark, of Homestead, Pa.; Mary W., wife of Burgoyne McDowell, also of Homestead; William George, deceased; Robert John, a machinist; Margaret A., wife of Frank Walker, of Joliet; Annie E., Ella N., August, Jr., Roy I. and Viola F.

**CHARLES HOLBERG.** In the prosecution of his work as contractor and builder Mr. Holberg has proved himself to be an industrious, energetic and persevering man, and he has gained a high place among those of the same occupation in Joliet. When he came to this city in 1882 he secured employment in carpentering, but a year later he began contracting and building, and has since given his time entirely to the business. In the city of Joliet alone he has built more than two hundred residences, besides many in the country and in adjoining cities. A number of houses he has built for himself, and these he has disposed of at fair prices; but one on Henry avenue that he built he has occupied since as a residence, and he also has his shop there. He has been given the contract for a number of store buildings and public structures, including the Evangelical Association Church at Lockport, Ill.

Of Swedish birth and lineage Mr. Holberg is a son of John and Mathilda (Abrahamson) Johnson. His paternal grandfather was killed in young manhood, and the maternal grandfather, Abraham Abrahamson, was a farmer, who spent his entire life in Sweden. John Johnson has been a lifelong farmer and is still living in the neighborhood familiar to him from childhood. In religion he and his wife are Lutherans. They were the parents of eight children, five of whom are living, two in Sweden, Charles in Joliet,

Mrs. Legren in South Dakota, and Erik in Joliet. The eldest of the family, our subject, was born in Westerbotten, Sweden, May 30, 1857, and was reared near Omio, where he attended public schools. When twelve years of age he was apprenticed to the cabinet-maker's trade, at which he served for five years, and later secured employment in carpentering. In accordance with the government requirements, he spent two years in the Swedish army. Concluding to seek a home in the United States he crossed the ocean in 1882 and at once settled in Joliet, where he has since gained a good trade and many friends. He is a member of the Joliet Builders' Association, among whose members he is well known.

Though he is a loyal American Mr. Holberg has never forgotten the land of his birth and the home of his parents. He keeps alive his interest in his old country by association with those of his nationality and by membership in various organizations composed of Swedes. He is a member of the Swedish Republican Club. In the building of the Swedish Lutheran Church he took a leading part and is now serving as a member of its board of trustees. He was married in Lockport, Ill., to Miss Mary Anderson, a native of the same laen in Sweden as himself. They are the parents of three children living, Charles M., John and Hilda, and lost one daughter, Minnie, at the age of six years.

**JOHN O. CONNOR.** The position of Braidwood, in the center of an important coal district, has naturally attracted to it a large number of practical, skillful miners, among whom none is more worthy of mention than Mr. Conner, the present mayor of the city. Both by native gifts and by training he is fitted for the responsible task of superintending valuable mines. Having had experience in every department of mining he thoroughly understands the work. He has gradually, by the exercise of energy, good judgment and perseverance, worked his way from a humble position to one of influence and importance, and is now general manager and part



owner of the Co-operative coal mine. This mine, which has a vein of two hundred and ten feet, produces an average of sixty tons per day, and its output is steadily increasing.

Mr. Connor was born in Ireland in 1854 and left that country in 1869, accompanying an uncle to the United States. He first settled at Lemont, Ill., where he attended school for a time. In 1873 he came to Braidwood and secured work as a laborer in the mines. Through his determination to succeed, backed by perseverance and industrious habits, he soon became a practical miner, working up through the different grades of mining. In 1896 he went to Springfield, Ill., and took an examination before the state board of examiners for statistics of labor, from whom he received a certificate entitling him to act as mine manager. Since 1891 he has owned a half interest in the Co-operative mine, situated within the city limits of Braidwood. His attention is closely given to his duties as manager of this mine, and it is largely due to his efficient oversight that the mine has proved a profitable investment for its owners. He has always been very considerate of the men in his employ and has shown a thoughtful interest in their welfare. It is said that he pays the highest wages of any mine owner in the place, and certainly it is true that in every way he has endeavored to live up to the golden rule in his relations with his men.

Because Mr. Connor has been so engrossed in his work as mine manager, it must not be supposed that he is neglectful of the duties of citizenship. He has ever been loyal to his adopted country. During the many years of his residence in Braidwood he has been to the people all that is required in good citizenship and public enterprise. As an alderman (an office that he held for four years), he worked in the interests of the people; and this same trait has been very noticeable in his administration as mayor, to which office he was elected in the spring of 1899. The town has had in him an unswerving friend, ever alert to serve its best interests, and generous in his contributions toward movements tending to the general advancement. For years he has been one of the leading Democrats of this part of the county.

In 1877 he married Miss Mary Horn, by whom he had seven children. He and his family occupy a beautiful home in Braidwood. Fraternally he is connected with the Home Forum and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, of which latter lodge he is president.

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**J** A. PEDERSEN came to Joliet in 1889 and has since been identified with the business interests of the city, first as an employe and later as an employer of others. For four years he was employed in the old Red mill and in that time gained a thorough knowledge of the business. Afterward he conducted a rented mill on Desplaines street for two and one-half years, remaining there until the property was condemned by the drainage board, when he rented his present mill at No. 211 Collins street. This mill is operated by an engine with twenty horsepower and has a capacity of twenty tons a day, or ten tons in twelve hours. It is one of the largest feed and grist mills in the city, and the products are sold to the wholesale trade. The owner, being a man of energy and determination, has won the confidence of the business element of the city and the esteem of his associates.

A son of Nels and Ella Pedersen, natives respectively of Denmark and Sweden, our subject was born in Jutland, Denmark, December 19, 1864, and was one of a family of three sons and four daughters, all of whom are in America. When advanced in years the father joined his children in the United States and is now living retired in Joliet. During his boyhood our subject had the advantage of travel with a gentleman in different European countries, and meantime he gained a good knowledge of German, French and English. In 1884 he came to this country, and, after spending six months in Chicago, proceeded to Will County, where he was employed on a farm in Greengarden Township. From there he came to Joliet in 1889. He began in business without any means, but his integrity and enterprise have given him a good position

among the business men of his town. Politically he is a Democrat, but does not take an active part in politics or local affairs. In religion he adheres to the Lutheran faith, in which he was reared. He was married in Joliet to Miss Dorris Johnson, who was born in Denmark. They have three children, William, Anne and Ellen.

**JOSEPH MCCLINTOCK.** Although a quarter of a century has elapsed since the death of Mr. McClintock, he is still remembered by the older residents of this county. As a pioneer his name is deserving of perpetuation in local annals. Coming to America in 1849, the same year found him in Will County, which at that time contained none of the improvements which it now boasts. The land was unimproved, the town's small and unimportant, and the surroundings those of the frontier. During the subsequent years of his life he labored to place his land under cultivation and devoted himself to his chosen work with painstaking and self-sacrificing care.

While Mr. McClintock was himself an Irishman by birth and parentage, he was of Scotch descent. His father, Robert, spent much of his life in County Antrim, but in 1850, the year after his son crossed the ocean, he followed with his family and settled in Kendall County, but in 1858 retired to Joliet, where he died. His wife, the mother of our subject, had died in Scotland. Of their marriage Joseph was the only child, although by his father's second marriage four children were born. When he came to America our subject spent a short time in Pennsylvania and Michigan, then went to Chicago, and from there came to Will County. At the time of his father's settlement across the Plainfield line, in Kendall County, he purchased land with him, but in 1857 sold out there and settled on the Plainfield road, in Joliet Township, where he improved a large farm three miles from the court house. There he engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, in 1875.

In Plainfield, August 26, 1853, Mr. McClintock

married Miss Eleanor McDougal, who was born in County Derry, Ireland, a daughter of Edward and Mary (Smith) McDougal, natives of the same county. Her maternal grandfather, Jacob Smith, was born near Colerain, of Scotch ancestry. Her paternal grandfather, Joseph McDougal, a farmer of County Derry, was a son of Joseph, Sr., who removed from Scotland to Ireland. Edward McDougal was a farmer in Ireland in early life, but spent his last years in Joliet, where he died at eighty-four years. His wife died in New Jersey. Of their six children all but one attained mature years, but Mrs. McClintock is now the only survivor. She came to the United States in 1851 and the next year settled in Plainfield, where she soon became the wife of Mr. McClintock. After her husband's death she continued to manage the farm for seven years, but in 1882 rented the place and bought a residence in Joliet, where she has since made her home. Possessing great energy and activity, as well as good business judgment, she has been interested in the real-estate business and has built a number of residences on the west side. She is happiest when busy, and with her home duties and business interests finds sufficient to engross her attention, although she also gives time and thought to charitable work and to the activities of the Central Presbyterian Church, with which she is identified.

**HON. JABEZ HARVEY,** postmaster at Wilton Center since 1875, was born in the province of Quebec, Canada, January 20, 1831, a son of Hiram and Nancy (Fletcher) Harvey. His father, who was born in the same province in 1807, was the youngest of twelve children, and attained a more advanced age than any of the others, being eighty-seven at the time of his death. In the fall of 1837 he came to Illinois, driving with a team of horses the entire distance of fifteen hundred miles. He spent a winter in Tazewell County, then came to Will County and settled in what is now the town of New Lenox. Three years later he came to Wilton Township and bought government land three miles northeast



of the present site of Wilton Center. At the time he came to Wilton Township, in 1841, it had but two families. In 1844 he went to Five-Mile Grove, Manhattan Township, and ran a dairy for four years, when he returned to Wilton Township, remaining here until his death, in January, 1894. In politics he was a Republican. Both of the grandfathers of our subject, Lemuel Harvey and Isaac Fletcher, were natives of New England and soldiers in the Revolutionary war, after which both settled in Canada, accepting the offer of the British government to give land to all who would settle there.

In 1850 our subject went to California, spending four months in the trip overland. He located twelve miles south of Downeyville and engaged in mining; also carried on a miners' store. In 1852 he returned via the Isthmus, his first ride on a railroad being across the Isthmus. He arrived home January 1, 1853, and soon bought one hundred and sixty acres of land one-half mile west of Wilton Center. In December of that year he married Miss Sarah J. Welliver, a native of Butler County, Ohio. After his marriage he settled down to farming. In 1858 he established a mercantile business in Wilton Center, which he has since conducted. In 1864 he took a second trip across the plains in quest of gold, going to the mines at Virginia City, but finding a great crowd there he sold his outfit and returned home. Indians were very troublesome, and caused a delay of a month at Salt Lake. The return trip of seventeen hundred miles was made by stage. On his return he resumed mercantile pursuits. For twenty-two years he was justice of the peace, after which he refused to serve longer. For twenty-one years he was township treasurer, an office that his son, Judd E., now holds. In 1872 he was elected to the state legislature, in which he served two sessions. Frequently he has been a delegate to county, district or state conventions. His service as postmaster covers a longer continuous period than that of any other postmaster in the county. In 1892 he was elected supervisor of Wilton Township and served for a term. After an intermission of two years he was again elected and served for two terms. He is now president

of the Pioneers' Society of Will County, in which organization he has been very influential. His wife died June 18, 1897, leaving four children, Everett E., of Des Moines, Iowa; Ettie E., who is married and lives in Milford, Iowa; Judd, a partner in his father's business; and Jay C.

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JOHN G. WILHELMI has been engaged in contracting and building in Joliet since 1891. For a year he was a member of the firm of Wilhelmi & Wagner, but since then he has been alone. Among his most important contracts may be mentioned those for the E. Porter Brewing Company's plant, St. Patrick's school, the German society hall on North Hickory street, the high school at Lockport, the high and ward schools at Sandwich, Ill., and the building for school district No. 6, Joliet Township. Besides these he has had a large number of contracts for residences and stone buildings in Joliet and elsewhere. He is a member of the Joliet Builders' Association, of which, at this writing, he is the treasurer.

In Jackson Township, this county, Mr. Wilhelmi was born December 2, 1864. His father, John Adam Wilhelmi, was a native of Hamburg, Germany, and grew to manhood on a farm in his native land. In 1853 he came to America. After one year in Detroit he settled in Joliet, where he lived for two years. In 1856 he established his home on a farm in Jackson Township, and after a time purchased property on section 29, Joliet Township, where he carried on farm pursuits until his death, in March, 1896, at seventy-three years. He took an interest in local matters and held the offices of school director and highway commissioner. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Wirtz, was born in Coblenz, Germany, and died in Joliet in 1890. They were the parents of eight children, of whom the following survive: J. C., a contractor in Hastings, Neb.; Barbara, wife of John Korst, of Jackson Township; N. H., a machinist, in Chicago; Anna, wife of Frank Kramer, of Joliet; J. G.; and Lizzie, Mrs. William Pelkey, of Joliet.

From three years of age our subject was reared in Joliet Township, where he attended school and grew to manhood, with a fair knowledge of farm work. His taste, however, was rather in the line of carpentering than in agriculture, and when he was eighteen he began to learn the trade with Mr. Wagner, whose partner he later became. He has continued steadily at his work and has met with unvarying success, being rightly judged to be one of the most efficient and painstaking contractors in the city. He owns the old family homestead of twenty-seven acres on the Elwood road, two and one-half miles from Joliet, where he has a comfortable residence. In Joliet, in 1890, he married Miss Emma Richter, who was born in Mackinaw, Ill., and grew to womanhood in Lockport. They have three sons, Richter A., Frederick C. and Clarence W. The family are connected with St. John's Roman Catholic Church, in the building of which Mr. Wilhelmi's father assisted. He is connected with the Western Catholic Union and is also member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

**D**ANIEL PATTERSON, a farmer and stockman of Wheatland Township, was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, October 13, 1829, a son of John Patterson. In 1849 he crossed the ocean on the "Hottinger," and after a stormy passage of six weeks he landed in New York. Thence he traveled by river and canal to Buffalo, and from there via the lakes to Chicago, from which point he drove to Will County. For three years he was with his brother, one mile east of his present home. Later, with another brother, James, he bought one hundred and twenty acres of partly broken land where he now lives. The improvements on this place have been made under his supervision. At different times land has been added, until the two brothers now own four hundred and forty acres. They gave their attention principally to the raising of oats and corn, and to the breeding and feeding of Durham cattle.

By his marriage to Jane Williamson, a native

of Scotland, Mr. Patterson had ten children, eight of whom attained mature years, namely: William, a farmer of Wheatland Township; Margaret, wife of George Smith; Robert, John, Mary, Frank, Grace and Laura.

**M**UNGO PATTERSON, of Wheatland Township, was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, September 22, 1814, and was the eldest of the eleven children of John and Jane (Hall) Patterson. In 1841 he came to America, spending six weeks in an old sailing vessel on the Atlantic, and finally landing in New York. After three years in that state, in 1844 he came via the lakes to Illinois and settled in Will County, where he began farming on a tract of one hundred and twenty acres of open prairie. He broke the land and made necessary improvements. As he prospered he bought other land until he farmed a large tract. In addition to the raising of wheat and oats, he gave considerable attention to Durham cattle. About 1885 he retired from active work, to enjoy his declining years in the midst of the comforts a life of frugality made possible.

In New York state Mr. Patterson married Agnes, daughter of Robert Clow, a pioneer of this county. They had seven children, viz.: John, a farmer in Indiana; Robert, a farmer in Dupage Township; William, in the same township; Sarah, who married Robert Wightman and lives on the home place; Agnes, who married, but is now deceased; Adam, who cultivates a farm adjoining the homestead; and Helen, who died in infancy.

**A**LBERT H. SMITH, who owns and occupies a thirty-five-acre farm in the suburbs of Crete, was born October 12, 1845, in the town of Bloom, Cook County, just across the line from Crete Township. His father, John C. Smith, a native of Connecticut, accompanied his parents to Illinois in 1835 and settled in this county, of which the family were pioneers. Several years later he entered a claim to govern-



ment land in Bloom Township and began the raising of stock and general farm products. In an early day he served as township collector. Although he was only thirty-eight at the time of his death he had accumulated five hundred acres. His father, Timothy Smith, was born and reared on Long Island, where he engaged in tailoring, but after coming west he gave his attention to farming and stock-raising. He took part in the wars with the Indians. Fraternally he was a thirty-second degree mason, and in religion a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He died in this county, when eighty-nine years of age.

The mother of our subject was a daughter of John C. Wilson, who was born in England and settled in Bloom Township in an early day, becoming owner of what was later known as Columbia Heights. Mrs. Smith died when twenty-eight years of age, leaving three children. The older son, Wesley, died in 1865, when twenty-three years old, and the only daughter, Louise J., is the wife of J. R. Morris, of Bloom Township. When our subject was three years old his mother died, and three years later his father passed away, leaving him an orphan. He was taken into the home of his grandfather, Smith, with whom he remained until he was sixteen. Afterward he lived with an uncle on a farm and worked out by the month. When he married he bought eighty acres of his grandfather's land in Bloom Township and made his home there for some time, but finally removed to his present farm adjoining the limits of Crete. He still owns one hundred and eighty-eight acres in Bloom Township, which, with the exception of five years when the land was rented, he has since conducted.

November 25, 1869, Mr. Smith married Marian, daughter of Squire Willard Wood, founder of Crete, whose sketch is given on another page. They are the parents of five children, namely: Anna L.; Willard J., who is engaged in the grocery business at Chicago Heights; Florence, wife of Charles A. Noble, recorder of Will County and a resident of Joliet; Wesley A. and Clark C., who are with their parents. Mrs. Smith is identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which

faith the children were reared. Mr. Smith is an active worker in the Republican party. He is the only native of America holding office in Crete Township. He has the position of highway commissioner, in which he is serving his third term. Besides his general farm work he has given considerable time to the stock business, and has met with good results in the breeding of Clydesdale horses and Jersey cattle.

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**W**ILLIAM McCOWAN. In choosing the business of a contractor and builder Mr. McCowan selected an occupation for which his mental gifts, disposition to labor, his tastes and his previous opportunities admirably qualified him. Since 1882 he has made his home in Joliet, where he is known as a thorough master of his trade. He has had the contracts for the erection of a number of substantial business houses and private residences in this city. Realizing that "a man's house is his castle," it is his aim that this "castle" shall be solidly constructed so as to withstand the constant wear of wind and weather, and at the same time he endeavors to construct a building that will be pleasing in exterior appearance and convenient in interior appointments.

A member of an old Scotch-Presbyterian family, Mr. McCowan was born in Perthshire, Scotland, in May, 1860, a son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Drummond) McCowan, natives of the same shire. His father, who is still living and is now (1899) eighty-five years of age, made weaving his trade through all his active life, and the same occupation was followed by his grandfather, Duncan McCowan. The wife and mother died at seventy-six years of age. Of her eleven children all but two are living, three sons being in the United States. William, who was seventh in order of birth, was reared in the parental home and attended the national schools. From seventeen to twenty years of age he served an apprenticeship at the stone mason's trade, meantime gaining a thorough knowledge of stone-cutting and brick-laying. Later he worked at his trade

in Glasgow. In the spring of 1882 he came to the United States, landing in New York and from there proceeding to Joliet, where he secured employment at his trade. After some years he began in business for himself as a contractor and builder of stone and brick buildings.

Prior to leaving Scotland, Mr. McCowan married, in Glasgow, Miss Mary Mackey, a native of Edinburgh, and they have two children, Annie and William. The family attend and are connected with Central Presbyterian Church. In his currency views Mr. McCowan is a believer in the free coinage of silver and is strongly opposed to monometallism, which, in his opinion, tends to benefit the few at the expense of the many.

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**R**OBERT B. CLARK, of Joliet, was born in Paisley, Scotland, May 23, 1840, a son of John and Catherine (McNab) Clark. He was one of fourteen children, four of whom survive, namely: Jane B., wife of Hiram Shingler, of Amity, Mo.; Allen, a farmer of Clay County, Tex.; Robert B.; and Catherine, who married James W. Shingler and lives in Joliet. His father was born in Renfrewshire, in the lowlands of Scotland, in 1804. In boyhood he learned to weave Paisley shawls. Immigrating to America in 1842, he settled in Wellington County, Ontario, where he purchased land and engaged in farming. He won the esteem of his neighbors and the regard of his associates, and was a leading member of the Presbyterian Church. For several terms he served as school trustee. His wife was a native of Invernesshire, in the highlands of Scotland. She died in 1862.

Educational facilities were meager in the country regions of Canada when our subject was a boy; hence he had little education besides that which he obtained by self-culture. In the fall of 1865 he came to the States. During the winter he worked in the lumber regions of Wisconsin and Minnesota. In the spring of 1866 he came to Joliet and secured employment in the Illinois state penitentiary, where he remained for ten

years as a guard and for one year was foreman in the cigar factory of Fuller & Fuller, at the prison. His next work was in the transfer and trucking business, which he conducted for seven years, meantime doing much hauling for contractors at the penitentiary. In 1890 he purchased four hundred acres of land near Spirit Lake, Iowa. He has also been identified with the property interests of Joliet. In 1882 he built a residence at No. 118 Second avenue, and seven years later he erected his present home at No. 112 Sherman street, which is one of the handsome residences of the city. Politically he is a staunch Republican, always supporting the men and measures of the party. In religion he is connected with Central Presbyterian Church. The first marriage of Mr. Clark took place in 1872 and united him with Mary J. Baker, who was born in the County of Peel, Ontario, Canada, and died in Joliet in 1884. Three of the four children born of this marriage are living: Robert Ezra, Mary, Agnes and William Garfield. Mrs. Mary Clark was a daughter of William Baker, who was born in Canada, a son of Michael Baker. In early life he engaged at the trades of carpenter and wheelwright, but later turned his attention to farming. He was a skilled mechanic, and always did considerable work in that line.

In 1886 Mr. Clark was united in marriage with Miss Sadie Beardsworth, who was born in England, a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Hill) Beardsworth. She was only eighteen months old when her mother died. Leaving the child with the maternal grandparents, George and Ann Hill, the father came to America. Ten years later he returned to England, and this time brought his daughter back with him to America. For a short time he was employed in a rolling-mill in New York City. Next he went to Reading, Pa., where he rose to the important position of assistant superintendent of the Reading mills. After twelve years in that city he removed to Topeka, Kans., where he became superintendent of the rolling-mills, continuing in the position until they were destroyed by fire one year later. He then came to Illinois and settled in Joliet, where he was foreman of the B mill for two years.



When the mills were closed down, although he was importuned to remain by his employers, he left the city and went to Portland, Me., where he was foreman of the Portland rolling-mills. Later he was made superintendent of the mills, which position he held up to the time of his death. He was one of the ill-fated passengers of the steamer "Portland," which sank with all on board, November 28, 1898. In religion he was connected with the Church of England.

REV. W. J. McNAMEE, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Joliet, is considered one of the able men of his diocese and is also active in temperance work, being at this writing first vice-president of the Total Abstinence Union of Illinois and one of the leaders in the organization. He was born June 20, 1859, in Legga, near Ballinamuck, County Langford, Ireland, a son of John and Mary (Ward) McNamee, also natives of that county. His father, who was born in 1809, grew to manhood on the farm owned by his father, John, Sr., and is still living, at ninety years, on the same homestead, his twin brother, William, living a mile from his place. His wife is also living and is eighty-five years of age. They are the parents of four sons and five daughters now living, of whom three sons and one daughter are in America, the daughter making her home with her brother, W. J. Of the sons, John J., who was educated in America, is now chaplain at Forest Castle, Mount St. Vincent, on the Hudson; another son, Joseph, is assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Chicago. A cousin, Joseph, son of William McNamee, is pastor of St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Brooklyn, N. Y.

Reared on the home farm until fifteen years of age, the subject of this sketch at that time began to study for the priesthood. At first he was a pupil in a diocesan school, after which he completed the course in philosophy and theology in All Hallows' College in Dublin. In that college he was ordained June 24, 1883, by Bishop Crane, of New Zealand, and at the same time he was as-

signed to the Chicago diocese. Coming immediately to America, he was for six months assistant pastor of St. Mary's, Evanston, Ill., then was transferred to Holy Angels Church in Chicago, where he remained for nine years as assistant pastor. In 1892 he established a new congregation in Aurora, purchased and remodeled a building and bought property adjoining with a parochial residence. This parish bore the name of the one with which he had been identified in Chicago. He remained there until February 10, 1897, when he was appointed pastor of St. Mary's Church in Joliet.

The original location of St. Mary's was on the corner of Scott and Van Buren streets, but when the building on that site was burned, a new building was erected on North Ottawa street, where the congregation owns a quarter of a block, with the finest edifice in the city. The membership is large and the various sodalities are in excellent working condition. The church is not only next to the oldest among the Catholic churches of the city, but it is also one of the most harmonious and successful. An academy is carried on, under the auspices of the Sisters of Loretto, in connection with the church, and St. Mary's parochial school affords excellent educational opportunities for the younger children. This school was remodeled in 1898, a steam plant being put in and other improvements made. The four hundred and fifty pupils are under the charge of nine teachers from the convent of Loretto. Many of the graduates of the high school receive county teachers' certificates, the course of instruction being sufficiently thorough to enable graduates to carry on educational work successfully.

Under the supervision of the pastor the work of St. Mary's moves on harmoniously. He gives his personal attention to all matters connected with the work and looks carefully after the spiritual needs of his parishioners. Besides his work as pastor he is serving as chaplain of the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Knights of Columbus, and is also a member of the Catholic Knights and Ladies of America. While he has always been devoted to his work, even to the point of self-

sacrifice, he has occasionally allowed himself a vacation, and twice has returned to his old home, in 1887 and 1896, at both of which times he toured through the British Isles and visited many points of historic interest.

**C**HARLES P. JOHNSON has been engaged in the building business in Joliet since November, 1888. Among the many residences for which he has been given the contracts are those owned by Messrs. Henry Sehring, Goldberg, Bremmond, Elmer Henry and Henry Shreffler. Besides the residence which he occupies, on the corner of Maple and Strong avenues, he has built other houses for himself, including four on Meeker avenue, one on Sheridan street, two on Chase avenue, one on Harris avenue and two on Maple avenue, a number of which he has sold. He is a member of the Joliet Builders' Association. Among the Swedish-American citizens of Joliet he holds a prominent place. He is connected with the Swedish Temperance Union, and has served on the board of trustees and deacons of the Swedish Lutheran Church, also was a member of the building committee at the time of the erection of the Swedish Orphans' Home. The Northwestern Mutual Life Association and the Modern Woodmen of America number him among their members. In politics a Republican, he is a member of the Republican Club and has served on the county central committee of the party.

In Tornea, Skåne, Sweden, Mr. Johnson was born June 5, 1858, a son of John and Benta Johnson. His father, who was a son of Lewis Johnson, a farmer, learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed, in addition to wagon-making and contracting, and he was considered an expert mechanic in wood. He died at forty-two years of age and his wife when thirty-eight. They were the parents of one son and six daughters, of whom four are living, all but one being in America. When fourteen years of age our subject was apprenticed to the carpenter's trade under an uncle, a builder and farmer, with whom he re-

mained for three years. Later he was employed as a journeyman. He served for two years in the Twenty-fifth Army Corps, Swedish Infantry.

Via the steamer "City of Paris" Mr. Johnson came from Liverpool to New York in 1881 and arrived in Joliet in April of that year. For a year he worked for William Davidson of this city. In 1882 he went to Davenport, Iowa, and during one winter attended the city schools, the next winter being a student in the night schools. He worked on a farm in Rock Island County, Ill., then became a sawyer and millwright in a saw-mill in Davenport. July, 1882, found him harvesting in Minnesota. In the fall of the same year he secured employment on the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad. Next, returning to Davenport, he resumed work in the mill, where he remained steadily for some time, with the exception of a few months spent in putting up a mill in Cloquet, Carlton County, Minn. In 1885 he began contracting and building in Davenport. He continued there until the spring of 1888, when he went to Wausau, Wis. In the fall of the same year he came to Joliet, where he has since resided. While in Davenport he married Miss Karen Swanson, who was born in Skåne, Sweden. Of the eight children born to their union six are living, namely: Josephine, Elfie, Hedwig, Tissing, Victor and Charles N.

**R**EV. CHRISTOPHER PATRICK FOSTER. In his work as pastor of the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church of Joliet, Father Foster has been particularly successful. This congregation was organized in 1886 by Father Gaulet, and was an outgrowth of St. Mary's, comprising families in this part of the city. The founder of the church was succeeded by Father Foster, who was appointed to the pastorate September 28, 1888. He found a small building on South Ottawa street, and soon enlarged and remodeled the building, which now has a frontage of almost five hundred feet. In connection with the church is a parochial school with two hundred pupils, in charge of the Ladies of Loretto.



Besides his work in Joliet he has been in charge of a mission at Manhattan, which he established in 1890; there he erected a handsome edifice, which, owing to the remarkable growth of the congregation, was in 1895 enlarged to double its original capacity. The membership now comprises fifty families, and in the church there are the various sodalities, including temperance organizations for boys, societies for young men and also for young women, a League of Sacred Heart and others. At this writing he is state chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, with which he is actively connected.

The Fosters are an old Scotch family that settled in the west of Ireland. Edward Foster was born in County Galway, Ireland, and in 1849 removed to Manchester, England, where he worked at the merchant tailor's trade. Crossing the ocean in 1865, he settled in Rushville, Ind., where he had a tailoring establishment. In 1877 he removed to Indianapolis, where he has since been similarly employed. He is still living in that city, and is now seventy years of age. His marriage united him with Mary J. Haley; a member of the Scotch family of Wallaces who migrated to Sligo, Ireland. Her mother, who was a Miss Wallace, was a convert to Catholicism, and reared the children in that faith. Of seven children comprising the family of Edward Foster, four are living, three, Thomas J., William and Edward, being in business with their father in Indianapolis, assisting him in the management of his two places of business in that city.

The subject of this sketch was born in Manchester, England, August 24, 1855. His primary education was secured in Christian Brothers' school in Manchester. After coming to America he studied in Rushville. When fifteen years of age he entered St. Joseph's Seminary at Bardstown, Ky., where he studied the classics, and later spent one year in St. Xavier's school in Cincinnati, Ohio, an institution under the supervision of the Jesuits. Next he matriculated in St. Mary's of the West, where he studied philosophy and theology, completing the course in 1879, after which he spent six months

in Niagara College. Later he accepted a position as instructor in the advanced course of rhetoric and belles lettres at Bourbonnais Grove, Kankakee County, Ill., in St. Viateur's College, one of the best institutions in the state. On the 24th of June, 1881, he was appointed assistant pastor of St. John's Church on Eighteenth and Clark streets, Chicago, where he was under Rev. John Waldron, a venerable and honored priest of the archdiocese. His ordination to the priesthood was in charge of Archbishop Feehan of Chicago. On the death of Father Waldron, June 24, 1882, he was succeeded by Dr. Butler, with whom Father Foster remained until he was transferred to the Sacred Heart Church in Joliet. He is a man of scholarly attainments, fitted by natural gifts and a thorough education for successful pastoral work, and his long pastorate in his present connections speaks volumes for his fidelity and self-sacrificing devotion to the cause.

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**F**RANK JACKSON, who is a successful building contractor of Joliet, was born in Ledsham, Yorkshire, England, October 1, 1852. His father, Thomas Jackson, a farmer, was a member of a family that had been prominent in the same locality for five hundred years, and, as far back as the record extends, the ancestors were farmers and bore the name of Thomas. Our subject's father was born at Brotherton, in 1828, and there married Jane Morritt, by whom he had seven children, three now living, viz.: Thomas, who holds a prominent government position in England; John and Frank, who are business partners. The maternal grandfather, Francis Morritt, who was a wealthy farmer, laid the first railroad tie for the first railroad built in the world, his name being cut in the stone tie. This road was built from Stockton to Darlington. He was a son of Col. Francis Morritt, a giant in stature, seven feet and two inches tall, and an officer both in the Crimean war and the battle of Waterloo.

At Kippiz and Ridsdale academies our subject obtained his education. When thirteen he was apprenticed to the building trade. After five

years of work he became so proficient that his employer gave him charge of a crew of men, and he superintended the construction of important buildings in various parts of Europe. In this way he traveled extensively during the course of his business life in the old world. For seven years he served in the volunteer force under the Queen of England.

The year 1878 found Mr. Jackson in America. Landing in Philadelphia, he went from there to Houtzdale, Pa. Four months later he arrived in Chicago, where he spent eighteen months, and during that time he drove the first nail ever put in the Pullman plant. From Chicago he went to Meridian, Miss., and for two years he worked in the south. Returning north he settled in Houtzdale, Pa., where he became a contractor. After two years he came to Braidwood, Ill., and there met W. H. Odell, who started him in business. He erected practically all of the buildings in the town. In 1885 he came to Joliet, where he at once took a high place as a contractor, and was given contracts for many prominent buildings. He had the contract for the building of the Keeley plant at Dwight, Ill., and has in his possession the only bust of Dr. Keeley owned by a private individual. In 1892 he retired from contracting and did not resume until July, 1899, when he formed a partnership with his brother, and since then the firm of Jackson Brothers has become one of the best-known in the city.

December 24, 1887, Mr. Jackson married Miss Margaret Bale, who was born in England, and in childhood was brought to America by her parents, the family settling in Mahanoy City, Pa., in 1871, when she was two years old. In 1873 they moved to Houtzdale, Pa., and in 1882 came to Braidwood, Ill., remaining there until they settled in Joliet, in 1886. Six children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, but Clara J. is the only one now living.

In politics Mr. Jackson has been an active Democrat. In 1892, 1893 and 1894 he served on the board of aldermen, during which time, in recognition of his faithful service, his constituents presented him with a gold star. He has been repeatedly urged to accept renomination for

alderman, but always declines. Fraternally he is connected with the Sons of St. George; Paul Revere Lodge No. 371, K. of P.; Banner Lodge No. 391, I. O. O. F.; and has held all of the chairs in the local camp, Order of Foresters, which for two years he represented in the grand lodge.

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**H**ARRY M. GIAVER, chief clerk of the Great Western works of the American Tin Plate Company at Joliet, was born in Tromsø, Norway, on the 4th of July, 1869. His father, Hans, who was a native of the same place as himself, and a prominent merchant there, was especially interested in handling the products of the fisheries. Active in local affairs, he held an office similar to that of city councilman, and aided in promoting enterprises for the benefit of his town. He was a member of a family that originated in Denmark, whose representatives were prominent merchants and some of whom held high rank in the ministry. He is now living, retired from business pursuits, in his native town. By his marriage to Birgitte, daughter of John R. Scheldrup, a merchant, he had four sons, the eldest of whom is an attorney; the second, our subject, is the only member of the family in America.

At fourteen years of age our subject left the private school he had previously attended and entered the University of Christiania, where he studied for four years, graduating in 1888, when nineteen years of age. It had been his expectation to enter the ministry, but, his mind having more of a commercial than a professional bent, he turned his attention to mercantile pursuits. For four years he was interested with an uncle in the fish and oil business. In 1893 he came to America for the purpose of visiting the World's Fair. He was so pleased with the country that he decided to remain. His first position was in Chicago, with a cousin of his father, who was a member of the contracting firm of J. G. Giaver & Co., and during the three years he was there he had charge of the office work. Next he was with the Calumet Furnace Company in South



Chicago. In 1896 he came to Joliet and accepted a position with the firm in whose interests he has since worked. When the name of the firm was changed to the American Tin Plate Company his ability was recognized by his promotion, in August, 1897, to the position of chief clerk, and this responsible office he has since filled with great efficiency. Though not active in politics he is a staunch Republican. He was reared in the Lutheran faith and is a believer in the doctrines of that church. Fraternally he is connected with Iron Link Lodge No. 751, I. O. O. F., of Irondale.

**G**ERBERT PHELPS, who came to Joliet in 1870, was born in Middlebury, Vt., December 8, 1835, a son of Samuel S. and Electa (Satterlee) Phelps, natives respectively of Litchfield, Conn., and Vermont. His father, who was in the war of 1812, and served as paymaster in the army, settled in Middlebury, Vt., where he engaged in the practice of law. While serving as judge of the supreme court of Vermont he was elected to the United States Senate in 1839, and served his country in that capacity until 1851. His oldest son, Edward J., an attorney in Burlington, Vt., was minister to England under the first administration of Grover Cleveland.

The subject of this sketch was a classmate of Admiral Dewey in the Norwich military school. In 1856 he graduated from Union College at Schenectady, N. Y., after which he had charge of a private school in Louisiana and also studied law, returning to Middlebury in 1859. The next year he went to Burlington, Iowa, where he studied law in his brother's office, and was admitted to the bar early in 1861. When the war began he was commissioned May 14, 1861, first lieutenant in the Nineteenth United States Infantry, in which he served with valor. He was detached at first as recruiting officer, and then was engaged in mustering duty at Columbus, Ohio. March 16, 1864, he was commissioned captain. During the last year of the war he took part in the Atlanta campaign. He had the command of the regiment on the march through Georgia.

After the war Mr. Phelps engaged in the claim business at Columbus, Ohio, for a year, then ran a flouring mill at Maumee City, that state, for two years. In 1870 he came to Joliet, where he formed a law partnership with W. C. Goodhue, later was with Judge Benjamin Olin, but is now alone in the practice of law. For some years he was president of the school board. It was due to his efforts that the public library was established in Joliet. He was president of the old Joliet Historical Library Association, which presented to the city a library that has since been enlarged to thirteen thousand volumes. Since 1890 he has been president of the Library Association, which is now formulating plans for a new public library building that will be a credit to the city and a source of pride to every citizen.

In Logansport, Ind., Mr. Phelps married Miss Belle Jerolaman, whose father, Dr. George M. Jerolaman, was appointed by President Jackson as physician to the Indians, and was placed in charge of their removal to the more remote west. Mr. and Mrs. Phelps have two daughters and one son.

**G**EORGE S. HOUSE, one of Joliet's leading attorneys and progressive citizens, is a member of a pioneer family of Illinois. His paternal grandfather, Chester House, came west from the vicinity of Rome, Oneida County, N. Y., in 1831, and located three-quarters of a section of land on the Ausable River, twelve miles west of Joliet. On his land was the old Fox Indian trail between the Mississippi and the lakes. The farm continued to be his home until his death, and is now occupied by his sole surviving son; since the deed made was made transferring the property from the government to Mr. House, the only papers drawn up were the original owner's will and the later deed of our subject's father, transferring his interest in the homestead to the present owner. Chester House was a pioneer in every sense of the word. When he came west he walked from Chicago to his claim. Joliet was not then in existence. The country was in its primitive wildness. He built the first hewn-log

house in all the region and it became the landmark for travelers. When Hon. Joel Matteson came to this county, Mr. House went to Chicago with his team and brought the Matteson family and their household goods back with him. The goods were packed in straw in Jefferson County, N. Y., and were unpacked on the House homestead, the place being clearly marked by a growth of Canada thistles, which sprang up from among the straw.

Rodney, son of Chester House, was born in Oneida County, N. Y., and learned the wagon-maker's trade there. In 1833 he came west and settled on the north edge of what is now Grundy County (then Cook), when he entered a claim. In the winter of 1835-36 he built a dwelling on Chicago street in Joliet. In the spring of 1836, his wife joined him here. He opened a wagon shop on Chicago street. In 1858 he erected a new house on Scott street, where he made his home until his death, at ninety years. During his early life he was an old line Whig, and upon the organization of the Republican party became identified with it. He was one of the organizers of the Congregational Church in Joliet, and afterward served as a deacon as long as he lived. He continued at his trade until he was seventy-five, when he retired. His life was prolonged far beyond the usual duration of man's existence, but he was fortunate in retaining, to a large extent, his faculties of mind and body. On the ninetieth anniversary of his birth his remains were interred in a cemetery near his home. No pioneer of the town was more respected than he, and, although he did not accumulate property or gain wealth, he gained that which is more to be desired—the esteem of his associates and the love of his friends. Before leaving New York he married Miss Julia Stillman, by whom he had two sons, George S. and Rodney (both of Joliet), and a daughter that died in infancy.

When our subject was nine years of age his mother took him to Rome, N. Y., and he prepared for college in the academy there. At the age of sixteen he entered Hamilton College at Clinton, N. Y., where he took the regular course of study, graduating in 1856. He then

matriculated in what is now Columbia law school, and three years later graduated with a high standing. Although he had no intention of practicing law in New York state, he took the examination, with the others of his class, before the board of examiners for admission to the bar of that state; and had the satisfaction of receiving the highest grades of any candidate. His examiners were men of national fame—Roscoe Conkling, Judge Allen, of the eastern district of New York, and Judge Denio, who was afterward judge of the court of appeals of New York.

Returning to Joliet, Mr. House entered the law office of McRoberts & Goodspeed, with whom he remained for a short time. His license to practice in New York secured him admission to the courts of Illinois, without further examination. After a short time in the office of Uriah Osgood, he formed a partnership with him, and the two remained together until 1863, when Mr. House went south, and was engaged as auditor and cashier in the office of the general disbursing quartermaster at Nashville, Tenn., under General Donaldson. In 1867 he came back to Joliet, since which time he has been engaged in professional work. His career has been remarkably successful. It is said by those qualified to know, that there has not been an important case in Joliet during the last twenty-five years in which he was not interested. For many years he has been attorney for the Chicago & Wilmington Coal Company, the largest coal company in the state. For twenty-five years he has held the position of attorney for the Chicago & Alton Railroad. While his is a general practice, yet he has been particularly interested in corporation law, and his largest success has been achieved in that department of the profession. In the session of 1890, when the labor element was so strong that five bills were passed in its interests, namely: the truck store bill, weekly pay bill, gross weight bill, check-weighman's bill and screen bill—the passage of these bills put all business at the mercy of operatives and employees. Mr. House was retained to fight the measures. He carried all of them to the supreme court of the state, where they were declared unconstitutional.



These same bills were passed and declared constitutional in West Virginia. He was then asked to go to West Virginia and argue for a rehearing. This he did, the result being that the decision was finally reversed. While he is a believer in Republican principles, yet he has never been active in politics, preferring to give his attention wholly to his professional activities.

The marriage of Mr. House took place June 27, 1860, and united him with Miss Virginia A. Osgood, whose father, Hon. Uriel Osgood, was one of the most prominent attorneys and bankers of his day. Mr. and Mrs. House are the parents of six children, viz.: George C., who is an engineer on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, and resides in Bloomington, Ill.; Harry O., who is with the Illinois Steel Company in Joliet; Caroline V., wife of Frank E. Chamberlin, of Joliet; Gould, a dentist in Joliet; I. Robert, who is in his father's office; and Hazel.

**C**APT. JOSEPH V. DUSSEAU, whose home has been Joliet since childhood, is better known as Joseph Duso, the latter style of spelling having been adopted by his older brother, Narcisse, at the time that their father went to California; and since then, as everyone has persisted in writing the name by its abbreviated form, the latter has been used instead of the original and correct spelling. His father, Augustus, a son of Victor Dusscau, was born in Canada, a descendant of early French settlers of that country. In the fall of 1846 he brought the family via the lakes to Chicago, thence by teams to Aurora, Ill., and in the spring of 1847 began farming near that town. In 1854 he traveled across the plains to California, where he remained for four and one-half years, and on his return engaged in farming in Minnesota, later settling in St. Anthony, that state. In 1863 he came to Joliet, where he died three years later. He married Olive Lanou, daughter of a farmer and descendant of an old French-Canadian family. She was born in Canada and died there, while on a visit to relatives, in 1890. Of her seven chil-

dren all but two are still living. The oldest son, Narcisse, who was a soldier in a Missouri regiment during the Civil war, died in Colorado. Two sons and a daughter live in Joliet, one daughter in Canada and another in Minnesota.

The next to the eldest of the family, Joseph V., was born at St. John's, Canada, July 8, 1844. In the fall of 1851 he came with his mother and father to Joliet. He was only ten years of age when he began to earn his livelihood by working as a driver on the canal between LaSalle and Chicago. After some seven years as driver he began steering. In 1869 he became master of the "E. Burnham," and, after two years, master of another boat, which he bought in 1873 and operated until 1882, when he sold it. Later he had charge of a stone boat for seven years and then ran another stone boat for four and one-half years, after which he ran steamboats. The exposure in all kinds of weather, which his business had rendered necessary, brought on rheumatism, and for two years he was unable to engage in any work. In August, 1897, he resumed work on a steamboat, and this he has since operated, engaged in transporting flour and wheat to and from Chicago for Norton & Co. He has been on the canal since 1854 and is probably the oldest canal man in Joliet.

In Chicago, December 27, 1874, Captain Dusscau married Miss Louise Civalier, who was born in Montreal and came to Joliet at fourteen years of age. Eight children were born of their marriage, namely: Joseph and Olive, who died at the ages of fourteen and ten months respectively; Florence; Louise; Estella; William, who was only one month old at death; George; and Edna, who died in 1897, at six years of age. Joseph Civalier, father of Mrs. Dusscau, was born in Canada, son of Laurent Civalier and member of a French-Canadian family. He became a horse dealer and veterinary surgeon. In 1863 he removed to the Lake Superior region, but the next year came to Joliet, and in 1868 settled in Chicago, where he now resides, at seventy-five years. He married Lucy Malbocuf, who was born in Montreal and died in Chicago; she was a daughter of Lucien Malboeuf, a Canadian and by

trade a tanner. In religion Captain Dusseau and his wife are members of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church. Politically he has always been a staunch Republican and may be counted upon to cast his vote in support of party principles.

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**W**ALTER L. ERIKSEN, a successful sanitary engineer, has made Joliet his home since 1886. A member of an old Danish family, he was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, February 17, 1869, a son of Hans P. and Maria (Nilsen) Eriksen, and a grandson of Erik Eriksen, a cabinet-maker and furniture dealer now residing in Greenville, Montcalm County, Mich. His father, who was also a cabinet-maker, brought the family to America in the fall of 1870 and settled in Sheffield, Ill., where he engaged in contracting and building for a time. Later he built a carriage shop and turned his attention to the manufacture of carriages and wagons, continuing in that business until he died in 1879. His wife, who still lives at Sheffield, is a lineal descendant, on her mother's side, of French ancestry, her grandfather, Francis Francie, a member of a wealthy family, having migrated from France to Denmark.

The older of two sons, of whom the younger, Alexander, died in 1879 at eight years of age, W. L. Eriksen was reared in Sheffield, where he studied in the public school. Since fourteen years of age he has been self-supporting. He served an apprenticeship to the tinner's trade in his home town, remaining under an employer in Sheffield for three years. In 1886 he came to Joliet, where at first he worked at the tinner's trade for Strong, Bush & Handwerk. In 1888 he was made foreman in charge of the department of plumbing, gas-fitting and heating. His work was satisfactory, and he proved himself an efficient and reliable man. While filling the position of foreman he entered upon the study of sanitary engineering in the International Correspondence School of Scranton, Pa., from which, after four years, he received the degree of S. E. in 1898. Meantime he had resigned his position

in order to start in business for himself. He has since taken a partner, enlarged the business, and is now located at No. 800 Jefferson street, where he has built up an excellent trade in his chosen line of sanitary engineer.

Fraternally Mr. Eriksen is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, in politics votes with the Republican party, and in religion holds membership with the Richards Street Methodist Episcopal Church. He was married, in Joliet, to Miss Emma McDade, who was born and reared in this city, her father, Chauncey McDade, having been an early settler here. She is of Scotch descent on the paternal side, while through her mother she traces her lineage to France.

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**A**XEL H. CHRISTENSEN, M. D., a practicing physician of Joliet, was born in Høve, Sjælland, Denmark, June 13, 1867, a son of Jens and Susanna Maria (Brammar) Christensen. On his mother's side he descends from an old and noble family of Denmark. His maternal grandfather, who was a prominent apothecary of Christianhaven, was a brother of Bishop Brammar, Bishop of Jutland, and the last of those that had power. Jens Christensen, who was the son of a large landed proprietor of Jutland, was professor of schools for years, retiring when seventy years of age, and dying ten years later. In religion he was a Lutheran. He was a man of honorable character and upright life. His wife was sixty-five at the time of her death. Of their nineteen children eleven attained years of maturity. Most of the sons became soldiers in the army, but one was an architect and another a professor. A sister married Zacharias Niedson, the most prominent Danish poet of to-day.

Dr. Christensen, who was one of the youngest of the children, represents the thirteenth generation in descent from Hans Tausen, archbishop to King Frederick II. He graduated from the high school of his native town in 1883, after which he attended Sorø Academy until his graduation in 1888. Meantime he had begun the study of



medicine under private preceptorship, and afterward attended lectures in Copenhagen. In 1892 he came to America and spent some time in Kenosha, Wis., where he attended the high school and also studied medicine. Later he took the course of lectures in Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, from which he graduated in March, 1897, with the degree of M. D. During the same time he completed the course in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso.

In 1897, through his appointment as interne at Silver Cross Hospital, Dr. Christensen came to Joliet. After one year in the hospital he began to practice medicine and surgery and has since built up a valuable patronage among the people of the city. He has his office in the Cutting building. He is a member of the Desplaines Medical Society. Everything pertaining to his profession receives his warm interest. He keeps abreast with all the developments in therapeutics, and is justly recognized as a skillful physician, whose position in his profession has been secured by intense application and constant study.

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**S** J. HULTGREN is one of the leading Swedish-American builders in Joliet, and has been quite successful in his work in this city. Among his most important contracts have been those for the Eastern Avenue Baptist Church, the addition to the Eastern Avenue school, Lull's block on Cass street, St. Joseph Hospital annex, the Swedish Mission, and many residences, including his own home on the corner of Stirling and Stevens avenues. In partnership with Alfred Wenberg, in 1898 he built an oatmeal mill, an addition to the E. Porter brewery, a brick store on the corner of Oneida and Center streets, and another on Jackson street.

In Jönköping, Smaland, Sweden, Mr. Hultgren was born February 9, 1851, a son of Johnnes and Anna (Isaacson) Hultgren. His mother, who was born in Sweden in 1821, and is still living in that country, is a daughter of Isaac Isaacson, a farmer. Our subject's father, who was born in Smaland in 1819, was reared on the home farm, and engaged in the milling business, own-

ing two mills. His last years were devoted to farm pursuits, and he died on a farm at the age seventy-five years, in 1896. Of his six children, three daughters and one son are now living, the daughters all remaining in Sweden. The son, our subject, early learned the miller's trade and remained with his father until he was twenty-one, after which he was foreman on the Eastern Trunk Line Railroad in Sweden. For seven years he engaged in railroading and putting up telegraph lines, after which he began stone mason work on the railroad. He also built a few basement foundations on contracts.

Coming to America in the spring of 1882, Mr. Hultgren spent three months in Arlington as a railroad employe. In August he came to Joliet, and for two summers he worked in a stone quarry. He soon became interested in a quarry with Wenberg Bros., with whom he worked as a mason. He accompanied them to Englewood, Ill., remaining with them as a workman for two years. Afterward, for six years, he was their foreman in Joliet, putting up many buildings for them. While out hunting, March 3, 1891, through an accident his right limb was shot below the knee, and he was so seriously injured that for seven months he was unable to leave his room. When finally he began work again, in the fall of 1892, he became a partner of Louis Wenberg, but after two years the partnership was dissolved, and he has since been alone, with the exception of 1898, when he put up some buildings in connection with Alfred Wenberg.

In Sweden, 1874, Mr. Hultgren married Miss Anna K. Magnuson, who was born in the same place as himself. Her father, Magnus, was a son of John Vermo, who was a soldier in the Swedish army. Magnus continued to cultivate a farm until his death. He married Inga Elisa, daughter of Johannes Elisa, a farmer in Sweden. They became the parents of two children, Mrs. Hultgren and a daughter still living in Sweden. By the marriage of our subject and his wife nine children were born, namely: Carl A.; Mrs. Thilda C. Davis, who lives in Joliet; Alma S.; Lydia, deceased; Minnie; Emma E.; David, Enoch and Isaac.

Mr. Hultgren is a member of the Joliet Builders' Association and the Swedish Republican Club, and is an active worker in the Republican party. In the Swedish Mission, of which he is a member, he has for some time held the office of deacon and is also interested in Sunday-school work.

**S**AMUEL PORTER AVERY is one of the leading attorneys of Joliet. During the eighteen years he has made his home in this city he has become thoroughly acquainted with its resources and conditions, and is a stanch friend to improvement and progress here, along all lines. As an attorney he possesses unusual ability and knowledge, and to each and every case placed in his hands he gives earnest attention and care, neglecting no point that may be turned in favor of his client. In his profession he commands the respect and high regard of all who know him, his record being that of an upright, just man, who under no circumstances will stoop to deceit or chicanery.

The Avery family was established in America in a very early day. Christopher Avery landed at Salem, Mass., June 12, 1630, coming from Wiltshire, England, on the transport "Arbella" with Gov. John Winthrop. He settled in Gloucester, where he was selectman from 1646 to 1654; he moved to Boston in 1658 and to New London, Conn., August 8, 1665; was made freeman of the colony in 1669 and died at New London March 12, 1679. His only son, James, was born in England about 1620, and married Joanna Greenslade, of Boston, November 16, 1643; removed to New London in 1650; was chosen townsman in 1660, holding the office twenty years; was ensign lieutenant and captain of the only training band of the town; saw active service in King Phillip's war; was twelve times elected to the general court from 1650 to 1680; commissioner of the peace and assistant judge of the county court. In 1665 he moved to Poquonoc Plains (now the town of Groton), where he built "The Hise of the Avery's," recently destroyed by fire; he died in 1694. His sixth child was John; John's fourth child was Elisha; and Elisha's son, Elisha, was born in 1718, and married Elizabeth Brown Minor, of Stonington, Conn. Their son, Rev.

Joseph Avery, born April 13, 1743, married Deborah, daughter of Hezekiah and Rebecca (Mead) King, of Marshfield, Conn., in 1772, and died March 3, 1814. During the latter part of his life he was a missionary of the Congregational Church in western New York, a sparsely settled region. His son, Samuel, was born at Sag Harbor, L. I., March 30, 1773; married, February 11, 1796, Rebecca, daughter of Noah and Rebecca (Porter) Langdon, of Tyringham, Mass. Noah Langdon was captain of the Eighth Tyringham Company of the First Berkshire Regiment during the war of the Revolution, and was at Bennington and Saratoga. Samuel Avery removed to and became a farmer in Oneida County, N. Y., where his eight children were born. Of these Samuel K., born in 1810, became a farmer in Oneida County, and there married Asenath, daughter of Abel and Asenath (Smith) Wilder. Abel Wilder was a descendant of Nathaniel Wilder, who settled in Lancaster, Mass., in 1630, and was a prominent farmer of Oneida County, where his daughter was born and educated. The marriage of Samuel K. Avery and Asenath Wilder was solemnized in 1836 and resulted in the birth of seven children. In 1847 the family came to Illinois, settling in Kendall County, where two sons, Samuel P. and John F., were born. The parents owned a large farm (one-half section) near Lisbon, Kendall County, and there remained until death; the paternal grandparents also died there.

The education of our subject was acquired principally in the schools of Newark and Yorkville, Ill. When nineteen years of age he began to teach school, which he followed for three winters in Illinois and one in New York state. He began the study of law in Rochester, N. Y., with Jesse Sheppard, city attorney, and E. B. Fenner, state's attorney, and later continued to read under A. W. Windett in Chicago. He was admitted to the bar in June, 1876. Immediately afterward he began to practice, establishing his office in Morris, Grundy County. In 1882 he came to Joliet, where for two years he was a partner of J. B. Fithian, and since then has been alone, conducting a general practice of law in its various departments. His attention is given unreservedly to his profession, and he is not connected with any secret organizations or social clubs; nor is he active in politics, although a stanch Republican and deeply interested in local affairs. He was married in Laddonia, Mo., to Miss Kate Wilder, daughter of Judge B. H. Wilder. They are the parents of three children: Laura, Wilder and Arthur.



**D**ANIEL JONES DARNELL, of Little Rock Township, Kendall County, was born in the old fort in Wenona, Marshall County, Ill., November 7, 1833. He is a descendant of one of the old colonial families of America. His grandfather, Benjamin Darnell, was bound out at a very early age, his father and older brother having been killed in the Revolutionary war, which left him dependent upon his own resources. Not liking the family he was with, he started out for himself and went to North Carolina, where he married and reared his family. From there he started for Illinois. He came to Marshall County and had charge of the building of the fort there. Later he removed to what is now Kendall County. His death occurred when he was eighty-five years of age.

John, son of Benjamin, and father of Daniel J. Darnell, was a native of Ashe County, N. C. While his father was still living in the south, he left home and went to Indiana, where he planted and harvested a crop. However, Illinois was his objective point, and as soon as he had disposed of his crop he came to Illinois, making his way to Marshall County, where he remained during the Indian troubles. During the three years he spent there he helped to build the fort. He came up the Fox River before his father, and built the first log house north of the river. A part of this house still stands, the surrounding farm being now known as the Hathaway place. He took up government land and broke and improved it. Being a good mechanic, he also carried on a blacksmith shop, and was accustomed to shoe oxen for his neighbors, using for the purpose any old iron he could get. He helped to build the first school house in his locality and in other ways aided local progress. On this place he died when forty-six years and ten months old. As one of the pioneers of his neighborhood he was closely connected with the development of material resources, and his name should be carried down to future generations for the noble, self sacrificing work that he did in a life that was all too brief to enable him to realize to the full his cherished hopes.

Before leaving North Carolina John Darnell

married Leah Jones, daughter of Daniel Jones, who was a justice of the peace and a man of influence in his community. To their union were born seven sons and three daughters. The eldest of these, Polly, became the wife of John Snyder, whose mill in the southern part of Little Rock Township is one of the old landmarks of this region. She died shortly after her marriage. The other living members of the family are: John, Daniel J., James, Aaron and Alfred; and Mrs. Martha Elliott, of Little Rock, and Mrs. Coulson, of Hinckley. John lives in Little Rock Township, Aaron in Sandwich, James in Plano, and Alfred in Colorado. Two older sons, Enoch and Eli, died in Illinois.

The earliest recollections of our subject cluster around pioneer scenes and incidents in Kendall County. He was two years of age when his father moved to this county, hence he remembers no earlier home. There are few now living who have been identified with the history of the region for a longer period than he, and certainly no one has been more deeply interested in its progress. After the death of his father he remained at home and worked for his mother until he was twenty-one, after which he worked a portion of the land for himself. When he left home he began to break prairie land and operate a threshing machine. At twenty-five years of age he went to Iowa, but remained there less than three years, when he sold out and returned to Illinois. In 1861 he bought the place where he has since resided. Scarcely had he settled on his new farm when the war between the States assumed such proportions that new recruits were called for in large numbers by the president. He enlisted at Little Rock in July, 1861, and went into camp at Aurora August 19. His name was enrolled as a member of Company E, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, which was assigned to the army of the west. He took part in all the engagements of his regiment from Pea Ridge to Kenesaw Mountain. His brother Aaron, who was in the same company, was seriously wounded at Stone River. He himself was three times wounded, and to this day the effects of these wounds remain. After the battle of Kenesaw Mountain he

was taken to the hospital, where he lay between life and death for weeks. In fact, nothing but a vigorous constitution saved him. His physicians expected to be obliged to amputate both of his limbs, but, to the surprise of everyone, he rallied and amputation was rendered unnecessary. As soon as he had recovered sufficiently to leave the hospital he returned home, his regiment having already been discharged from the service.

Since his army life Mr. Darnell has given his attention closely to farm work. He is the owner of two hundred and eighty-eight acres, on which he engages in raising hogs and cattle, also farm produce, and besides carries on a dairy business. He has between forty and fifty head of Short-horns on his farm, where there is a spring of water that never runs dry, hence the land is well adapted for stockraising. The milk from his dairy is sold almost entirely in Little Rock. While he has been very successful in his occupation of agriculturist, he has not hoarded his means, but has aided relatives and friends less fortunate than himself, and he has never been known to turn a deaf ear to the appeal of the worthy poor.

Since the days of John C. Fremont Mr. Darnell has been a stanch Republican. He is interested in local matters, but has avoided offices, preferring to devote himself to his private interests. His wife is connected with the Methodist Church and he attends the services of the same and contributes to its support. His marriage took place October 21, 1878, and united him with Olive C., daughter of George W. Rowley, an estimable lady, who shares with him the respect and confidence of neighbors and acquaintances.

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**W** DEERING STEWARD, mayor of Plano, has the honor of being the youngest man who ever has been called upon to fill this important office. Moreover, he received the largest majority ever given in this city to an occupant of this chair, his personal popularity and well known general business and legal qualifications all having due weight

in the minds of the people. He possesses the enthusiasm and energy of a young man, and, unlike many of the older politicians, he is sincere and earnest in his desire to further the welfare of the public, holding his own interests secondary. He has been sent as a delegate to numerous county and state conventions of the Democratic party, and has served as a magistrate until he tendered his resignation, in the spring of 1899, in order to enter upon his present duties. His name has been mentioned in connection with the office of representative to the legislature, and, as he already has become such a factor in the councils of his party, higher honors await him in the future.

The birthplace of William Deering Steward is his present home in Plano, and the date of the event is July 12, 1872. His father, the Hon. Lewis Steward, one of the leading citizens of Kendall County for several decades and now deceased, is represented upon another page of this work. When he was ten years old W. Deering Steward met with an accident which abruptly terminated his school life, as for several years he was an invalid and was an inmate of a hospital in Indianapolis. When he returned home he took up some of his studies by himself, as his strength permitted, and thus by the hardest route he worked his way to knowledge. During his father's term in congress the young man was of valuable assistance to the elder man in many ways, aiding him in the management of his business when his attention and time perforce were divided. In the spring of 1897 he entered into partnership with his brother, Julian R., in the banking business, and in the spring of 1900 the brothers bought the fine business block formerly owned by Mr. Henning. Also, in connection with his three brothers, he is financially interested in the Electric Lighting Company of Plano, being treasurer of the same, and other business enterprises of great importance. He is president of the Plano Improvement & Manufacturing Company.

In 1895 Mr. Steward entered the Chicago College of Law, where he pursued legal studies for two years, being graduated in that institution in



the class of 1897. He is a member of the Delta Chi, a legal college fraternity, and the Modern Woodmen of America, while in the Masonic order he has attained the Royal Arch degree, being a member of the blue lodge and of the chapter. He is president of the Blackhawk Social Club of Plano, and chairman of the County Democratic Central Committee.

The marriage of Mr. Steward and Miss Etoile Miner was celebrated September 26, 1895. She is a daughter of John Miner, then of Kansas City, but now employed as a mineralogist in Colorado. The two sons born to our subject and wife are named respectively Lewis Hollister and John Coulter.

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**REV. JOHN HENRY RABE.** The pastor of the flourishing Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kendall Township, Kendall County, the Rev. John H. Rabe, is a scholarly, capable servant of the Master, and under his wise ministrations a great and good work is being accomplished in this locality. A review of his history and of the mission church with which he became identified a few years ago appears below, and will be perused with deep interest by his hosts of friends, both here and elsewhere.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, May 25, 1856, the subject of this sketch is a son of William and Clara (Wlecke) Rabe, natives of Prussia, Germany. They were wedded in the Fatherland, and in 1855 emigrated to the United States, making their home in Cleveland, in which city they were instrumental in the organization of a large Lutheran Church. The father departed this life March 21, 1894, and of his five children only two sons survive, our subject and a brother whose home is in Cleveland.

Until he reached his fifteenth year the Rev. John H. Rabe attended the parochial schools in his native city, and at that age entered Concordia College at Ft. Wayne, Ind., with the intention of fitting himself for the ministry. There he spent six years in literary studies and then was admitted to the Concordia Theological Seminary, where he pursued a three-years course.

In the fall of 1880, when he was graduated with honors at his Alma Mater, he received a call from the board of missions of his denomination, and was assigned to an important field of labor in the vicinity of Kansas City—the territory of eastern Kansas and western Missouri. He remained there, faithfully laboring until the autumn of 1881, when he was called to his present pastorate.

In December of that year the Rev. John H. Rabe was installed as the spiritual head of this little flock, which then had but thirteen voting members. They assembled in a small building now used as a school-house, and within a short time the rapidly increasing congregation began to feel the great need of a suitable place of worship. In 1882 a convenient, modern parsonage was erected at a cost of \$1,500. From that time onward the work of raising funds for a church building progressed. Through the continued personal efforts of the pastor and his willing helpers in the great work, the necessary amount finally was raised and on the last Sunday in August, 1896, the church was dedicated. The building, which easily seats two hundred and fifty people, could not be duplicated to-day for \$6,000. It was constructed with reference to putting in a gallery later, when the needs of the congregation render it advisable. The church was finished throughout with hard-wood in the interior, and beautiful stained glass windows; comfortable pews and other fittings make the audience-room attractive and restful. The congregation now numbers forty-six voting members, and the work in this vicinity has reached a very hopeful state. It is under the general supervision of the Missouri Synod, which is the largest German speaking organization in America. Though Rev. Mr. Rabe habitually preaches in the German tongue, he addresses his hearers in both languages on special occasions and at some funerals, when both the English and German-speaking people are present. Every third Sunday he delivers a sermon and conducts religious exercises at Plano. Two weeks subsequent to his arrival here he started a parochial school and has been at the head of this enterprise ever

since, at present having thirty-six pupils under his instruction. Both languages are taught in the school, classes in arithmetic and geography being carried on in English.

The marriage of the Rev. Mr. Rabe and Mary Hemann was solemnized February 16, 1882. They have four sons and two daughters, namely: Walter; Martin, who is attending school in DuPage County, Ill.; Theodore, Amanda, Rudolph and Helen. Mrs. Rabe was a schoolmate of her husband and was born in the same city, a daughter of John Henry and Clara Elizabeth (Placke) Hemann, natives of Hanover, Germany.

**H**ENRY VAN TASELL, who has made his home in Fox Township, Kendall County, since 1848, was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., January 18, 1834. His father, Lewis, son of Green Van Tasell, was a native of New York and a machinist by trade. For years before he came west he engaged in the manufacture of cloth. In 1848 he started west, traveling via Erie Canal to Buffalo, thence by lake to Chicago, and from there by team to Kendall County. In the spring of 1849 he began farming on eighty acres that he bought and afterward improved. In politics he was a Whig and in religion a Methodist. By his marriage to Dorothy, daughter of Elijah Scott, he had two children, one of whom, a daughter, died at the age of eighteen months. The father was seventy-seven at the time of his death.

When the family came west our subject was almost fifteen years of age. Arriving at the new home he assisted his father in bringing the land under cultivation. When the grain was harvested he hauled it to Aurora, which was then the principal market. At the age of twenty-five years he rented a farm and began for himself. For seven years he remained on the rented land, after which he bought forty acres. Later, being prospered, he bought another forty. On the death of his father he consolidated the one hundred and sixty acres, forming the homestead he now occupies. The improvements of the place represent years of effort on his part. When he

settled on the land it was merely plowed ground, barren of any improvement. All of the buildings and fences were erected by himself, and through his labors the land was brought to a high state of cultivation. He still resides on the farm, but since 1890 has rented the land, living retired from active cares.

In politics Mr. Van Tasell is a Republican. He has been connected with the school offices and has shown an interest in this and other worthy movements. In 1859 he married Mary, daughter of DeMarquis Misner, who settled in Illinois in 1836. They have two children, namely: DeWitt, of Newark; and Carrie, wife of Frank Worsley, who operates the home farm.

**D**E WITT VAN TASELL. As one of the native-born sons of Kendall County and as a man whose energies have been devoted to the development of its business resources, Mr. Van Tasell well deserves mention in this work. He is proprietor of a store in Newark, where he deals in hardware and agricultural implements. In his store he has a well-selected and complete line of general hardware, as well as carriages and farm implements of all kinds. His reliable dealings and recognized honesty have contributed to bring him success, and he now stands among the foremost business men of his county.

At the home of his parents, Henry and Mary (Misner) Van Tasell, in Fox Township, Kendall County, our subject was born April 9, 1866, being one of two children. He was reared on the home farm and received such advantages as neighboring schools afforded. When he attained his majority he left home and started in the world for himself. Going to the Pacific coast he settled in the then territory of Washington, where he embarked in the manufacture of shingles. Several years later he sold out that business, after which he traveled for some time.

Returning to his native county, in 1894 Mr. Van Tasell established an agricultural implement business at Millbrook, and this he conducted until 1898, when he was burned out. During the same year he bought a hardware business in



Newark owned by O. G. Worsley, and he has since given his attention to this business. A progressive citizen, he has maintained an interest in local affairs. He has served the Republican party as delegate to various conventions. He is connected with the local camp Modern Woodmen of America, in which he has filled the position of presiding officer. February 20, 1890, he married Emma, daughter of John Fay. She died February 26, 1894, leaving two children, Bessie and Glenn. His second marriage took place October 28, 1898, and united him with Margaret, a daughter of Jacob and Mary A. (Greenfield) Budd, a pioneer family of this county. (See sketch of Jacob Budd.) In 1899-1900 Mr. Van Tasell erected the comfortable residence which the family now occupies, and which is fitted with all modern conveniences.

**HON. THOMAS FINNIE.** The words of Pope, "An honest man's the noblest work of God," recur to one in reviewing the life and studying the character of Thomas Finnie. That sturdy and unflinching integrity which is a characteristic of the Scot the world over was particularly noticeable in him. Truth and justice had a staunch champion in him, and honesty was his motto and watchword throughout life. Throughout his eighty-eight years he maintained a reputation for honor, sound judgment, charity and a broad spirit. While he was not a member of any church, he believed in the teachings of the Bible and endeavored to live up to its high ideals. The example of his life is one that will not soon be forgotten, and its emulation is worthy of the young men of the present day.

The birth of Thomas Finnie occurred in Galashiels, Scotland, July 25, 1809, his parents being Alexander and Mary (Mercer) Finnie. His father, who was interested in the manufacture of woolen goods in Galashiels, came to America in 1821 and settled in Brodalbin, Montgomery County, N. Y., where he was similarly interested. At the time the family crossed the ocean Thomas, the oldest of six children, was twelve

years of age. In boyhood he learned the practical details of the manufacturing business. After his father's death he continued the business until June, 1838, when he came via wagon to Illinois, taking up government land in Kendall County. He passed through all the experiences incident to pioneer life. Sturdy and robust in physical development, he was admirably fitted for the hardships and privations incidents to such a life. He engaged largely in raising stock and became known for the excellence of the breeds he raised. In whatever he engaged it was his ambition to be at the head, and he attained that result in his stock business, as his herds attained the highest degree of perfection under his intelligent care. He became largely interested in land, and was the owner of about one thousand acres lying along the west side of the river.

In every community there are certain persons who are looked upon as leaders among men. Such was Thomas Finnie. Owing to his sincere, earnest character all looked to him with admiration and confidence. A man of such strong individuality as he possessed could not fail to impress himself upon his community. However, though earnest, energetic and forceful, he was not aggressive nor selfishly ambitious. He was a man of peaceful disposition. In disputes such as arise in every community his advice was sought and his suggestions almost invariably accepted as the best means of settlement. A stalwart Republican, he was active in the councils of the party. He was intensely loyal to the country of his adoption. During the struggle of the Civil war he watched the course of events with intense interest. When most of the young men of this county had volunteered and gone to the war the draft was a great hardship. He strongly upheld the plan to raise a fund by taxation to purchase the services of a sufficient number of men; his unselfishness in proposing this plan was apparent, for he was the largest taxpayer in the locality and the burden would fall most heavily on him. He was a member of the Illinois state constitutional convention of 1860, and served as supervisor for eighteen terms. In politics, as in every department of thought, he

was honest and despised trickery and deception. He continued always to be a diligent student, keeping posted concerning every advance made in the world of thought. In conversation he was gifted. As a companion he was genial, whole-souled and affable.

October 4, 1839, Mr. Finnie married Mary, daughter of Nathau and Naomi Aldrich, natives of Montgomery County, N. Y. Their wedded life continued for almost fifty-eight years, during which time they shared each other's joys and sorrows, mutually striving to make their home cheerful and attractive for their children and the abode of hospitality and kindness. They built a substantial brick residence in 1859, and in it Mrs. Finnie lived until her death, which occurred October 13, 1900. Mr. Finnie passed away August 30, 1897. Of his children Mary L. is the widow of D. R. Ballou, of Kendall County; Irene is the wife of Charles M. Scoggin, also of this county; Walter is represented in this work; and Addie is the wife of Charles H. Pluess, of Millington.

horses, Shropshire sheep and a good grade of hogs, all of his stock being exceptionally fine. The farm is well adapted, by reason of running water and shade, for the stock business. Each year he raises about seven or eight thousand bushels of corn, three to four thousand bushels of oats and one hundred and fifty tons of hay, the larger part of which he uses for feed, although he sometimes sells a little. Besides the management of this property, he is engaged in the banking business at Millington with his brother-in-law, C. H. Pluess, they being the proprietors of the Bank of Millington, the first bank started in the village. His qualities of mind are such as to fit him for official duties, but as his time is engrossed by his business, he has never accepted any public positions. In politics he votes with the Republicans. His marriage took place in 1888 and united him with Emma D., daughter of Joseph Miller, of Ottawa, Ill. Mrs. Finnie died in 1892 and was buried in the Newark Cemetery in Millington. She left two children, Ruth and Thomas.

**W**ALTER FINNIE, who is connected with the Bank of Millington and also has inherited the old Finnie homestead in Fox Township, Kendall County, was born August 2, 1851, on the farm where he now resides. When he was a boy he was given good advantages by his father, Thomas Finnie. He attended district schools, the institute at Newark, and finished at the Illinois State Normal School. Returning home, he assumed the management of the home place, comprising almost one thousand acres. This property he has since superintended. In 1888 he erected a residence adjoining the old farmhouse, and here he has since made his home. He superintends five hundred and thirty-five acres, the most of which is under the plow. The supervision of so large a place is by no means an easy task. There are many responsibilities connected with it, and he finds his attention closely given to the many details of the work. Much of his time is devoted to the stock business. He raises and also feeds Shorthorn cattle, Norman

**H**ARLAN PAGE BARNES, president of the board of supervisors of Kendall County, has been a member of this important body for the past decade, during which time he has been a systematic, careful and progressive worker in the interests of the people and has met with general commendation. He is a true patriot, devoted to whatever he believes of permanent benefit to his fellow men, and ever seeking to perform his full share as a citizen.

The father of the above-named gentleman, Horace Barnes, was born in Warwick, Mass., and when he was a young man he removed to Chautauqua County, N. Y., where he was successfully engaged in agriculture for several years. In 1838, when Illinois was in the early days of her statehood, he came to cast in his fortune with hers and located in Bristol Township, Kendall County, where he thenceforth conducted a farm. He had married, in Wiusted, Conn., Susan Cone, and six children blessed their union, of whom only Harlan P., and his sisters, Mrs. Lois



Boomer and Ella B. Raymond, are residents of this county to-day. The father's long and useful career was brought to a close in 1878, and his widow, who survived him until 1897, at the time of her death had reached the same age he had attained—eighty-one years. Both were placed to rest in the cemetery in their home township. They were members of the Congregational Church.

The birth of Harlan P. Barnes took place on the parental homestead in Bristol Township, December 4, 1844. After he had obtained a fair education in the common schools in was his privilege to attend Wheaton College for a period, and by his later extensive travels in all parts of this country he gained a comprehensive knowledge of his day. Entering the employment of a bridge building company, he was connected with that line of enterprise for twenty years, and in the meantime traveled in nearly all of the states and territories in the Union, save a few of the extreme western states. In 1889 he located upon the old homestead in Bristol Township, and since that time has been successfully occupied in carrying on this place. He raises large crops each year and devotes a portion of his one hundred and two acres to pasture lands. He makes a specialty of dairying and keeps twenty-four Holstein cows. The milk is conveyed to the creamery at Bristol, and from this source alone a large income is derived.

On Christmas day, 1873, Mr. Barnes married Fannie Bradford, a daughter of William Bradford, of Worcester, Mass. The only child of our subject and wife bore the name of Guy H., and died in 1894.

Politically Mr. Barnes is a staunch ally of the Republican party, as he frequently has served as a delegate to the conventions of his county and state and has taken great interest in the success of his party principles. In educational affairs he is deeply concerned, as it behooves every true citizen to be, and as a trustee of the district schools has used his influence in the promotion of better schools and teachers for the young. One of the stockholders of the Kendall County Fair Association, he has been chosen to serve

as president of the organization, and is materially aiding in making a fine success of this enterprise.

ROBERT GILBERT LEITCH, who is one of the representative citizens of Kendall Township, Kendall County, has been closely connected with its prosperity and progress for the past forty-three years. His paternal grandfather, a native of Ireland, and of Scotch descent, became a citizen of the young republic of the United States in 1784, reaching these hospitable shores after a voyage of thirteen weeks. He settled in the mountains of central Pennsylvania and there spent the rest of his life. The maternal grandparents of our subject also lived and died in the mountains of the Keystone state.

Matthew, father of R. G. Leitch, likewise was born in Pennsylvania, and in his youth mastered the trade of a carpenter, following that occupation until he was about fifty years old. In 1857 he came to Illinois and bought a quarter-section of land situated in Kendall Township, Kendall County, and this place he soon reduced to a high state of cultivation. For a wife he chose Jane Hayes, and six children blessed their union. Nelson, the second, who had gallantly served for nearly four years as a member of Company E, Fourth Illinois Cavalry, was killed in the vicinity of Natchez after his honorable discharge had been forwarded to him. The father departed this life October 12, 1892.

Robert G. Leitch was born in Liberty, Center County, Pa., September 10, 1842, and when he was fifteen years of age he came to the prairies of Illinois. As his father was well along in years, and as our subject was then the only son at home, he took upon his own shoulders the greater share of the responsibilities of the homestead. He remained on the old farm until his marriage, when he removed to his present home on a tract of land situated just across the road from his father's residence. In former years he hauled grain to Joliet and Lockport, where he received better prices than at his nearer railroad station, Bristol, as the canal handled products at

much lower rates than did the railroad. For several years he conducted both farms, and in 1873 purchased the place, where he had been making his place of abode. It was destitute of trees at first, but he made a business of planting maple tree seeds all around his house and premises, and to-day these trees have attained fine proportions and add not a little to the beauty of the country-seat. The buildings upon the place were very poor and unsubstantial, but at the end of seven years the enterprising young man was enabled to erect a good modern house, and at other times he built barns and made necessary improvements. He has been engaged in raising live stock to some extent, chiefly cattle and swine. The milk obtained from the twenty-odd cows which he owns is taken to the Kendall Creamery, in Na-au-say Township. His possessions in land, altogether, comprise some two hundred and forty acres. He has laid about two thousand rods of tiling and has instituted other valuable improvements.

The marriage of Mr. Leitch and Emily Karns, of Ohio, took place November 26, 1868. Their only daughter, Mary J., is the widow of Clarence Hall, whose history appears elsewhere in this work. A son, Nelson Hayes, is assisting in conducting the home farm for his father, relieving him of much of the more arduous duties. Ralph Karns, the younger son, was graduated in the Yorkville schools.

The family are attendants upon the services of the Presbyterian Church. Politically our subject is a Democrat, influential and active in the councils of his party. For eight years he acted in the office of justice of the peace, while for a period of four years he served as supervisor of his township.

**D**ANIEL S. G. LILLEY. Having spent his entire life in the neighborhood of his present home, Mr. Lilley is well known throughout this section, and the fact that he is respected and honored by all his acquaintances is sufficient indication of his character. His present position among the farmers of Kendall County has been reached by industry, honesty and strict attention

to his chosen occupation of agriculture. By his resolute force of character he has not only promoted his personal success, but has given an impetus to the development of Bristol Township, and has actively forwarded various enterprises for its advancement in important directions. From boyhood he has been engaged in farm pursuits, and he has therefore acquired a thorough knowledge of the best methods of rotating crops and fertilizing the soil, as well as gained all the necessary information in relation to the stock business. He now cultivates two hundred and forty-five acres, on which are raised the various cereals adapted to the soil. One half of this land he has reclaimed from the sod, never having had a plow put in it before. A great deal of tiling was necessary. In stock he breeds the Black Polled Aberdeen Angus, having at the head of his herd a full-blooded bull of great value. The farm bears modern improvements in the way of buildings, including a neat and commodious residence, which he erected in 1888. All the buildings on the place were erected under his personal supervision, with the exception of a part of one barn, which was here at the time he came and to which he has since added. He has been a very large dealer in hay and his hay barn will hold eighty tons. At one time when hay was so abundant that the price was too low for profit, he baled all that he had and held it for a year, when he sold the entire two hundred tons at a good figure (\$20 per ton), at the same time contracting to supply thirty tons of the next crop at the same price. It is in such ways as this, by using good judgment in the disposal of his crops, that he has greatly promoted his financial success and has won a position in the front rank of Kendall County farmers. The value of his land as a stock farm is increased by the presence of running water. The improvements are first-class and prove that the owner is a man of thrift and enterprise.

The Lilley family has been represented in Illinois since 1833, when John Lilley, our subject's father, and a native of Ohio, followed the star of empire westward to Illinois, settling in Kane County. He came without means and secured



employment with Daniel S. Gray, the founder of the village of Montgomery, and a well-known pioneer, who owned a grist mill, sash factory and machine shop. After working for Mr. Gray five years and meantime saving his earnings with economy, he began to farm in the same neighborhood, pre-empted a tract and added to it by purchase until he became the owner of two hundred and eighty acres, in two farms. Later he bought one hundred and sixty acres from Mr. Gray at Montgomery. At the beginning of the Civil war he sold out and moved to Oswego, afterward buying land in Bristol Township until he had about one thousand acres. In 1865 he moved to this tract, which he cultivated until 1878, when he sold a portion of the property and moved to Aurora, remaining a resident of that city until his death in 1885. He was a man of untiring energy, great determination and habits of frugality and perseverance, and, without any aid, gained a position of prominence in the locality to which he had come, years before, without money or friends. In his youth he was disciplined in a hard school, for he had many hardships to endure and obstacles to overcome, but this taught him habits of self-reliance, which were of service to him in every subsequent step in life. By his marriage to Margaret Gray (who was a daughter of his first employer in Illinois) he had two sons and two daughters, of whom Daniel S. Gray Lilley (his grandfather's namesake) and the older daughter, a resident of Aurora, are the survivors.

Across the line in Kane County, two miles from his present place of residence, the subject of this article was born June 20, 1848. His boyhood was passed in the usual manner of farmers' boys, alternating work on the home farm with attendance at country schools. When he was eighteen he began to take the oversight of the home farm, and has since followed agricultural pursuits, with the exception of one year when he engaged in selling farm implements. In all of his farm work he has shown excellent judgment and great industry. His attention is so closely given to his stock and farm interests that he has no leisure to participate in public affairs and has

never been persuaded to accept any political office, although urged by his friends to accept a nomination for sheriff. He has been a delegate to county conventions of the Republican party. For eighteen years he has served as a school director in his district. Fraternally he is connected with the blue lodge, chapter and council of the Masonic order.

The first wife of Mr. Lilley was Letitia B. Lee, who died May 11, 1881, leaving the following four children: John, a farmer in Bristol Township; Margaret A.; Daniel G., Jr., and George S., who assist their father on the home farm. His second marriage took place March 28, 1883, and united him with Miss Carrie E. Burrows, by whom he has five children, namely: Carrie E., Leroy W., Ray V., Mae E. and Samuel Allen. It is the ambition of the parents to prepare their children for useful and honorable positions in life, and they are therefore giving them the best advantages possible. The oldest son of Mr. Lilley has already started out for himself and is doing well, while the others are expected in time to take their places as honorable, enterprising and intelligent citizens.

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**A**SHER D. HAVENHILL was born in the county of Kendall, town of Big Grove, February 19, 1840. He is a member of a pioneer family of Illinois, and descends from colonial ancestry. His grandfather, George Havenhill, removed from the east to Kentucky in boyhood, and remained there until 1829, when he became a pioneer of Tazewell County, Ill., coming from there to Kendall County in 1831. After the Blackhawk war he settled here permanently, and here his death occurred May 15, 1838, when he was about sixty years of age. Sarah, his wife, died July 2, 1872, at the age of eighty years. Their son Hiram was born near Elizabethtown, Ky., August 23, 1814, and accompanied the family to Illinois, settling in 1833 in Big Grove Township, Kendall County, and taking up a claim at the same time with his father. In the development of this land he bore a large part. Through his

efforts it was reclaimed from the primal condition of nature. As soon as he had broken the land he sowed wheat, and this he hauled to Chicago. For some time he lived in Mission Township, just across the line in La Salle County. A man of large public spirit, he aided largely in the erection of schoolhouses and churches, and for twenty-five years served as school trustee. He also held the office of justice of the peace sixteen years. In politics he was an old-line Democrat. At the time of his death he was seventy-six years of age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Richmond, was born in Ohio and died in 1876, sixteen years before he passed from earth. They were the parents of ten children, all living, of whom our subject and a sister are the only ones in Kendall County.

The education of A. D. Havenhill was obtained in public schools and Fowler Institute, from which latter institution he graduated in 1861. When he was twenty-seven years old he left home and rented a farm in Big Grove Township. Eight years later he removed to his present property, consisting of two hundred and forty acres, near Fox station. The place had not been cared for properly. Not a rod of good fencing could be found on the farm, and the land itself had been allowed to run down. When he bought the land it was encumbered with two mortgages, but he began to work with a will, and by the use of energy, backed by sound judgment, cleared the debt. One of his hobbies is to have good fences, for he believes in the adage that "good fences make good neighbors." His fences are made of Elwood woven wire, twenty-six to thirty-four inches, with two or three barbed wires at the top. While he is progressive in making improvements, yet he never goes into any enterprise without thoroughly investigating it and assuring himself that everything is satisfactory. In 1893 he built his residence, a handsome and modern structure, heated with hot-air furnace and provided with hot and cold water from basement to garret. He manufactures on the farm all the gas needed for lighting purposes, and, besides lighting the entire house with this illuminating agent, also uses it for cooking purposes, having one of

the modern Jewel steel ranges in his kitchen. The basement is of stone, with a cement floor, and there are also cement walks around the house and leading to the barn, yard and garden. The house is two stories high, with ten-foot ceilings, and contains fourteen large rooms, while porches, provided with screens, form a delightful adjunct of the residence. The barn and back yard are kept in as neat condition as the lawn in front of the house. The garden, indeed, is a model of what may be accomplished by intelligent care. Not a weed can be seen, everything showing care and cultivation. A fine young orchard adds to the value of the farm. There is also an apiary, for the owner is fond of working with bees. Each year he sets out one hundred sweet potato plants, and these average a crop of two barrels.

The barn is as complete in its appointments as the house. It is two hundred feet long, and is specially adapted for the care of stock, of which Mr. Havenhill makes a specialty. With the exception of two years he has for a long time been constantly engaged in feeding cattle for the market. He prefers Shorthorn cattle, and also prefers to feed in summer rather than winter. For feed he uses ground corn and cob-meal, having automatic feeders, so that none is wasted, and this feed is entirely assimilated. The barn is supplied throughout with water-pipes to different parts, so that cattle, horses and hogs can get in at all times. In swine, he makes a specialty of the Poland-China variety, crossed with Chester white. To some extent he also engages in buying and feeding sheep. He has a fine scale, protected from snow and rain, and so arranged that a wagon can be driven on and its contents weighed.

In politics Mr. Havenhill is a Republican. His interest in educational matters has led him to accept a position on the board of trustees, in which office he has continued for years, meantime giving special care to the use of the school funds. He is a stockholder in the Fair Association, and has frequently served as judge at the fair. As president of the Farmers' Institute, he has been prominent among those of the same calling as himself. He has ever been ready to give others



the benefit of his experience and successful work. Certainly his success proves that his example is worthy of emulation by young farmers. Starting with nothing, he has acquired a competence and has also proved the practicability of his methods of agriculture. He is both a thoughtful reader and an interesting speaker, and has been asked to take up lecturing for the State Board of Agriculture. He has the ripened knowledge which travel gives. One of his most interesting trips was that made to the west via the Northern Pacific Railroad. He spent six months on the coast, going as far south as San Diego, and returning via the Southern Pacific Railroad.

October 11, 1867, Mr. Havenhill married Mina, daughter of William R. Crum, who came from New York state to Kendall County. Their union was blessed by two sons, L. D. and Mark. The elder was born April 5, 1870, receiving his early education in the West Aurora high school, from which he graduated; later graduated from the department of pharmacy in the Michigan State University in 1894. After graduating he was given an appointment as assistant to the Wahoo College in Honolulu, where he remained for a year. Next he was chemist in the smelting works at Aurora, and when it was closed down by the trust he accepted his present position at the head of the department of pharmacy in the University of Kansas at Lawrence.

June 8, 1897, he married Myra Buck, and they have one son, Marshall A. The younger son, Mark Havenhill, was born March 31, 1880, received his education in the East Aurora high school, from which he graduated June 22, 1899, and is now a student in Ames Agricultural College, Ames, Iowa.

toward the betterment of mankind. He was a man of lofty principles and without exception his neighbors and acquaintances united in praise of his noble life and exemplary conduct.

Clarence M. Hall was of the third generation whose home was in Pennsylvania. His paternal grandfather, Jesse Hall, a native of England, resided in that country until he reached manhood, and after his arrival in the United States he located in New Jersey, purchasing lands for which he received deeds to the former owner by King George III. Subsequently he went to Pennsylvania, and there he and his son Everett, father of the subject of this memoir, dwelt for many decades. One of the friends and neighbors of the latter was Robert G. Leitch, whose birth occurred in Center County, Pa., and who has been a resident of Kendall County since 1857.

The birth of Clarence M. Hall took place in Beech Creek, Clinton County, Pa., October 8, 1861, and when he was three years old he was brought to Kendall Township, Kendall County, by his parents. Here he grew to manhood and in his boyhood was a pupil in the local schools of his home district. He was associated in business with his father until ten years ago, and their time was fully occupied in managing the large farms, situated as they were, on sections 2, 3 and 10, Kendall Township. About 1890 the young man commenced carrying on his business affairs independently, and for several years successfully managed his two hundred and fifty-seven-acre homestead.

Politically Mr. Hall was actively interested in the Republican party. In literary circles and society he occupied an honored place, and was instrumental in organizing the Kendall Literary and Social Club, which for eight or nine years has been in existence. Mr. Hall was an active member of the Methodist Church of Yorkville, and for some time held the office of steward and was an influential factor in the work of the Sunday-school. He was summoned to the silent land February 3, 1896, and his earthly remains were placed in Elmwood Cemetery at North Yorkville.

Among the hosts of relatives and sincere

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**CLARENCE McCLELLAND HALL.** In the untimely death of Clarence McClelland Hall, a prominent agriculturist of Kendall Township, Kendall County sustained a severe loss, for he had been foremost in everything relating to the prosperity of his community and had championed numerous measures tending

friends who deeply feel the loss of Mr. Hall, his widow and their children are foremost. It was on the 1st of October, 1891, that the marriage of Mr. Hall and Miss Mary J. Leitch was solemnized and to them were born, Robert, Elsie and Hayes. Mrs. Hall, who is the daughter of Robert G. Leitch, has returned to make her home with her beloved parents, early and highly respected settlers of Kendall Township, further mentioned on another page.

**REV. ANDREW WELLS CHAPMAN.** In any community there can be no greater power for good than the life of a noble man. Such was Mr. Chapman and such his influence among his associates in Kendall County. He was born in New York state July 31, 1832, the youngest of the nine children of Worthey and Hannah (Gates) Chapman. His father, a native of Connecticut, settled in New York, but later went to Ohio. He was of English extraction. The subject of this article was educated in Kingsville, Ohio, and in Oberlin College, from which he graduated in the spring of 1858. When only sixteen years of age he began to preach in the Congregational Church, and during the entire time of his collegiate course he preached on Sundays. In the fall of 1858 he came to Seward Township, Kendall County, Ill. At a salary of \$500 per year he was employed by the Home Missionary Society. During his first year here he preached in a schoolhouse in Seward Township and in a church in DuPage Township, Will County, on alternate Sundays. After the first year he did not receive a stated salary, it being his preference to have the people give what they felt able. May 5, 1859, he was ordained in Seward Township. In 1858 he organized the Seward First Congregational Church, and in 1891 the Second Church of the same denomination, the two buildings being about three miles apart, and he served as pastor of both. Possessing a deep spiritual nature, a clear brain and an honest heart, he drew all to him by the chords of a deep affection. He gave the best of his life to the ministry, preaching here for thirty-six years.

His reputation as a preacher increased. He was offered a salary of \$5,000 if he would accept a charge in Chicago, but he declined, his heart being in his work in this county. All the years of his residence here he planned and labored for his people, seeking to lead them to a better life. Not only was he consulted as a pastor, but also as a physician, lawyer and judge, for he possessed a knowledge of all of these professions. As he grew old another generation grew up around him and participated in the services of the sanctuary. The children at whose baptism he officiated came to him afterward at the marriage altar, and over some of them he pronounced the fateful words "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust." He was the people's friend and preacher. Not only did his congregation love him, but he had the affectionate esteem of every acquaintance. His first church was organized at House's Grove. For years he strove to secure the erection of the Second Church, and finally, through a suggestion of his wife, a plan was projected which rendered possible the starting of the building in 1880, and the next year it was dedicated, entirely free from debt. As a speaker he was fluent, never at a loss for words, but able to express himself clearly, concisely and forcibly. It was said of him that he was the best extemporaneous speaker in the county. His death, which occurred May 9, 1894, deprived two churches of their pastor and his family of a loving husband and father. Over seven hundred and fifty persons attended the funeral services, which were conducted by Rev. A. Ethridge, assisted by Rev. Henry Allen (Presbyterian), Rev. Mr. Hitchcock (Methodist) and Dr. Warren F. Day. At the time of his demise he had served longer in one place than any other Congregational minister in Illinois. He was often called, affectionately, the bishop of Seward.

November 9, 1859, Mr. Chapman married Mary B., daughter of Eli Gleason; they had two sons: James A. Chapman, who is married and lives near the homestead; and Edward B., who is with his mother at the old home. The younger son carried on the farm of three hundred and twenty acres until 1900, when the place was



rented, but he and his mother remain in the residence on the farm. Mrs. Chapman was a helpful and devoted companion to her husband during all the years of their wedded life. The words written of her in a local paper show her devotion to her husband: "She was the most unselfish, energetic and cheerful wife and mother I ever knew. She was a tower of strength to him, and such a comfort that during the last few days of his life minutes seemed like hours to him if she left his side, and he would beg her not to go out of his sight." Like him, she is of a charitable disposition, always happiest when helping others.

Mrs Chapman's father came to Kendall County in 1833, with Joel A. Matteson, afterward governor of Illinois, and Jeremiah A. Cole, afterward county clerk. These three men cut timber, hewed it, then took it to Lockport, where it was sawed, and with the lumber they built a house. They had previously kept "bachclor's hall" for some time in a log house on the edge of the grove. The frame building is still standing, north of Mrs. Chapman's home. Mr. Gleason took up two eighty-acre tracts. He became one of the most prominent men of this locality and was a large land owner. He married Clarissa Johnson, who was born at East Windsor, Conn., March 23, 1813. After their marriage, in September, 1837, they came to the west, spending three weeks on the lakes, during which time they were in great peril from fearful storms. From the lakes they rode across the country in a lumber wagon, finally arriving at his farm in Kendall County. On the place he had previously built a house, the three upper rooms of which were finished. There was only one house between them and Joliet, and one between them and Plainfield. Indians still roamed through the forests and frequent evidences of their treachery and hatred were seen. Wolves ran through the lower rooms of the house and the deer walked close by. All of the dry-goods and groceries used by the family were brought in a wagon from Chicago, and letters came in the same way. In 1849 Mr. Gleason went to California, hoping to make a fortune in the gold mines. But he never came home, and the news of his death was re-

ceived just after Mrs. Gleason had been bereaved by the death of one of her daughters. December 1, 1853, Mrs. Gleason became the wife of James Brady, who died in 1891. Afterward she made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Chapman, and when her son-in-law was called from earth his two children, James and Edward, strove to take his place in ministering to her comfort and welfare. Surrounded by these dear ones, and lovingly ministered to by them, she fell into her last sleep, January 14, 1900, when in the eighty-seventh year of her age.

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**M**ARSHALL BAGWILL. A number of the men now prominent in the agricultural circles of Kendall County are natives of the region where they now reside, and among these is Mr. Bagwill, the well-known and successful farmer of Fox Township. He was born about three miles southwest of Newark, in LaSalle County, June 4, 1842, a son of William and Almira Silence (Neff) Bagwill. His ancestors were Scotch, and on both sides he is of Revolutionary stock, his paternal great-grandfather being a soldier in the first war with England for seven long years, while on his mother's side he descends from General Neff. It is but natural, therefore, when his ancestry is considered, that he himself should have fought so bravely to defend the old flag and the nation his forefathers had helped to establish.

The father of our subject, William Bagwill, was a native of Charleston, S. C., but at the age of one year was taken by his parents to Indiana, where he grew to man's estate. In 1836 he came to Illinois and settled in the township of Mission, in LaSalle County. He successively took up a number of claims and sold them at a slight profit. He then settled on a tract which, on being surveyed, showed two hundred and forty acres. This he broke, improved and cultivated, making it his home for years. Finally, in 1872, he removed to Iowa and improved a farm in Boone County. He is still living there, and is now eighty-seven years of age. During the existence of the Whig

party he voted that ticket, and after its dissolution he became a Republican. Among the offices he filled was that of road commissioner. By his marriage to the daughter of Ebenezer Neff he had eight children, of whom two daughters live in Iowa, one son in Nebraska, Marshall in Illinois, and the others in California.

In public schools and the Fowler Institute our subject gained his education. He began to teach, but the breaking out of the Civil war changed all of his plans and led him to enlist as a private in Company G, One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. August 7, 1862, his name was enrolled in the Union army. He was ordered to Louisville, and afterward served successively under Generals Buell, Rosecrans, Thomas, Grant and Sherman, taking part in the battles of Hartsville, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, etc., after which he accompanied General Sherman on the march to the sea. His regiment participated in every battle from Chattanooga to Atlanta. At Missionary Ridge he was wounded and for a time was obliged to carry his arm in a sling, but continued with his command without the loss of a day, except while on furlough, but acted as quartermaster's assistant the remainder of his service, not being able to carry a gun. When peace finally reigned he went to Washington and took part in the grand review, after which he was ordered to Chicago and discharged in July, 1865.

Returning home, Mr. Bagwill turned his attention to farm pursuits. After two years he married, left the homestead and began farming on his own account. His first purchase comprised one hundred acres, but after cultivating that place two years he sold and bought one hundred and twenty acres. The latter estate he sold in 1872 and then bought two hundred and seventy-two acres on section 29, Fox Township. At the time of the purchase the erection of a brick residence had been commenced. He completed and added to this house, which he now occupies. With the exception of the old barn across the street all of the buildings on the farm were erected by him. By subsequent purchase he added to the property, which now consists of three hun-

dred and sixty-four acres. He has made a stock farm of his land, and the grain raised is used for feed. He has invested \$400 in water works, by means of which he supplies water to the house, barn and yard, the water being thrown with sufficient force to reach the top of the house. To assist in the cultivation of the land twelve horses and three men are employed.

Prior to settling in Fox Township Mr. Bagwill was continually in office, but since coming here he has declined, being satisfied with pathmaster for seventeen years and for many years a member of the school board. He is a staunch Republican and has been a delegate to many conventions. He is interested in and a member of Beardsley Post of the Grand Army at Sheridan. His first marriage took place in 1867 and united him with L. Cornelia, daughter of J. H. Whitney, a pioneer of Kendall County. She died in 1888. Of the four children born to this union, the oldest, Ashley Mills, is deceased. Edith is the wife of Lewis Jones, of LaSalle County; Ernest lives in Streator; and William James is on the home farm. In 1892 Mr. Bagwill married R. Estella Gridley, daughter of Henry Gridley, who was an early settler of Newark.

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**C**HARLES COOK POPE is a native of the township and county of Kendall and was born August 21, 1847. His father, Jacob F. Pope, a pioneer of 1839 in this county, was born in Monmouth County, N. J., March 4, 1817, and grew to manhood in that state. At the age of twenty-two years he started west with the Cook family. On reaching Illinois he at once began to follow the tailor's trade, which he had learned in the east; but there was not enough demand for such work to furnish him steady employment. He therefore secured an ox-team and commenced to break prairie land. After a time he settled on the land now owned by his son, Charles C. The two hundred acres comprising the place had been located by his father-in-law, John Cook. He applied himself diligently to the task of clearing and cultivating the



land. As he prospered he added to his farm until he acquired an aggregate of four hundred and twenty acres. During the early days, before railroads had been built through the country, he was obliged to haul all of his grain to Chicago. Besides growing grain he gave considerable attention to the raising of horses. At the time of the Civil war he owned a large herd of fine horses, which he sold to the United States for the cavalry. Subsequently he raised draft horses from imported stock. He continued actively engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1880, when he rented his farm and removed to Aurora. He still makes his home in that city and is robust for one of his years (eighty-four). In politics he is a Democrat of the Jeffersonian type and always votes for the party candidates in general elections, but in local affairs is inclined to support the man he deems best fitted for office. During earlier life he served in a number of township offices. By birthright he is a Quaker. After coming to Kendall County he married Ann Cook, a member of the family whom he had accompanied west. They became the parents of three sons and four daughters, all of whom are still living except one. Mrs. Pope died in 1875.

Owing to inflammation of the eyes, our subject was unable to attend school regularly; hence the collegiate education he desired was impracticable. He remained at home until twenty-one, working for his father. He then began farming on his own account, and for four years he operated an eighty-acre tract. He then turned his attention to carpenter work, which trade he followed for nine years. As he had a taste for such work, he met with considerable success. Afterward, with his brother, he began the cultivation of about two sections of land belonging to Lewis Steward. This they tilled four years, and later Charles operated it alone five years. In 1885 he bought two hundred and thirty-eight acres of the old home farm, since which time he has resided on the place where his boyhood days were passed. In agriculture his specialty is stock-raising, and on his place he has about sixty head of English red Polled cattle. He also does considerable

business as a dairyman, selling milk in Yorkville and besides has a number of sheep and swine. The grain that he raises is used for feed, which plan he finds more profitable than the selling of the produce in the market. To assist in the care of the land and stock he employs help constantly, while during the busy seasons he has an extra corps of workmen. His time is so closely given to business pursuits that he has no leisure for participation in public affairs, nor has he any desire to hold office. In general elections he votes with the Democrats, but in local matters has always preferred to cast his vote for the men he considers best qualified to represent the people. His marriage took place February 10, 1887, and united him with Ada B. Kennedy, daughter of Hugh Kennedy, of Bristol Township, Kendall County. They have two children, twins, Lawrence Earl and Hugh Kennedy, now in school.

**W**ILLIAM KOLLMANN, who is one of the substantial citizens of Kendall Township, Kendall County, has been a resident of this section of the state since 1848. He is a worthy type of the German-American, possessing that industrious, persevering spirit to which success is rarely denied. He has accumulated a large estate within the past half century, by hard work and good management, and in the meantime has won an honorable position in local society and in the church with which he has been identified.

Born in Colenfeld, Hanover, Germany, May 13, 1833, William Kollmann is a son of Frederick and Dorothea (Busse) Kollmann. When he was fifteen years old he accompanied his elders to America, and the latter lived for about eighteen years subsequent to their arrival here. The family located in Kendall Township, Kendall County, and our subject at once became an employe of the man who owned the homestead which now belongs to the former "hired hand." At the end of six years the industrious young man purchased eighty acres of this farm, and at once commenced business as an agriculturist, inde-

pendently. He prospered to a wonderful degree, and time and again added to his original possessions, until he became one of the largest landholders in the township. He dealt extensively in live stock for many years, and in this manner acquired a large proportion of his means. During the first year of his housekeeping he lived in a small log cabin, and the following year built the main wing of his present residence. As the years rolled away he added conveniences and comforts to his house and improved the homestead generally. He has purchased miles of tiling, which, carefully placed where most needed, has greatly increased the productiveness of the fields.

In 1856 Mr. Kollmann married Sophia Wehrmann, and of the ten children who blessed their union, the youngest is deceased. In order of birth they are as follows: Annie, wife of F. Neusus, whose home is but a mile and a half from the old homestead; Mina, wife of August Tatge, of Luzerne, Iowa; Henry, who is the proprietor of the old Thurber homestead in this township; Tillie, wife of C. Stumme, a teacher in the public schools of Cleveland, Ohio; William, whose farm is just across the road from his father's home; Ernest, also a farmer of this township; August, a Lutheran minister in Jefferson County, Neb.; Otto, who is assisting in the management of the parental homestead; Charles, his twin-brother, farming in this locality; and George, who died when in his eighteenth year.

Our subject has been a true and thoughtful father, giving his children what educational advantages he could afford, and when his sons arrived at mature years he gave each an independent start in life, by giving him a good farm near his own; these homesteads, varying, running from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and eighty acres. Otto has been assuming the greater part of the responsibility of operating the home farm for the past seven years, and though the father is not far from three-score and ten, he still retains much of his former vigor, and an abundance of ambition and interest in all public affairs. Within his recollection great changes have taken place in this county, for in the early

days of his settlement here, the view over these bare prairies was almost boundless. There were neither trees nor houses nor buildings between his own home and the distant Illinois River. Though he has given his ballots to the Democratic nominees, for the most part, he is quite independent, and declines to be tied down to any party. He has served as a road commissioner for the past twelve years, and at the present time is acting as administrator for three estates, an evidence of the high esteem in which he is held, and the great confidence which the people have in his ability as a financier, and the trust they have in his sterling integrity. He has borne a very important part in the work of the Cross Lutheran Church, and originally not only deeded the land on which the edifice was erected, but also aided materially in the construction of the building.

JACOB SEBRING BUDD, supervisor of Fox Township and a prominent farmer and stock-raiser of Kendall County, was born October 21, 1858, at the old family homestead in Millbrook, this county, and is a son of Jacob Budd, in whose sketch on another page will be found the family history. The education of our subject was begun in the Millbrook school and completed in Jennings Seminary at Aurora. On leaving the seminary he returned to the home place. When his father built the elevator and store at Millbrook he became interested in that work, and continued to assist his father until the latter sold out. He then looked after his father's farm interests.

In 1885 Mr. Budd started out on his own account, settling on the place where he still resides. He operates three hundred and twenty acres, of which all but seventy-five acres are under the plow. To assist in the cultivation of the land he gives steady employment to two men, and during busy seasons increases his supply of workmen. He buys and feeds cattle, also raises a goodly number, and besides these he has on his place Shropshire sheep and Poland-China swine. Considerable time is given to the dairy business, the



products of his dairy being sold to the creamery at Millbrook. His farm is especially adapted for stock-raising, as it has running water, and the springs never run dry. He is a member of the Kendall County Fair Association and has been one of its directors. He was also a stockholder in the Sandwich Fair Association.

An active Republican politically, Mr. Budd has been delegate to county, congressional and senatorial conventions, and has served as secretary of the first and last named. In April, 1900, he was nominated by acclamation and unanimously elected to the office of township supervisor. He has also been township treasurer, an office for which he is well adapted, as he is careful and painstaking in all of his work. Fraternally he is connected with Sunbeam Lodge No. 428, A. F. & A. M., at Plano. His marriage took place February 22, 1894, and united him with Dora, daughter of John Fay, of Fox Township. They have one child, Earl Fay Budd.

**W**ILLIAM A. MANCHESTER. There are very few families in Kendall County that have been connected with its history for a longer period than has the family which our subject represents. His father was a pioneer of 1839, coming here at a time when the land was still largely owned by the government, when improvements were few, villages small and widely separated, and the surroundings those of the frontier. With the progress of subsequent years he was closely connected, being especially active in the temperance cause. He held a number of local offices, including that of justice of the peace.

Asa Manchester was born in Rhode Island in 1809 and was therefore thirty years of age when he settled in Kendall County. He improved a farm, on which he raised cereals and stock, continuing at the head of the place until his son, our subject, took charge in 1883. Twice married, by his first wife, Julia Burnham, he had one daughter, Julia, who married Irus Coy, of Chicago. His second marriage was to Adeline Burnham, a sister of his first wife. They had

four children, viz.: Helen, who married James P. Rood, of Sheridan, Ill.; Eugene, who lives near Sandwich, Ill.; Cora and William A. The last named was born October 23, 1857, on the homestead at Newark that he now owns and occupies. He was educated in the grammar and high schools of the village.

When twenty-three years of age a new era began in the life of Mr. Manchester. He secured a position in the Union Stockyards of Chicago as yardmaster of the Fort Wayne shipping division, a position that he filled with efficiency and success. While living in Chicago he married Jennie C., daughter of William Curtis, of Marion, N. Y. Soon after his marriage he returned to the homestead, and here he engaged in farming and stock-raising until 1890. During that year, with his brother-in-law, Irus Coy, he began the breeding, training and selling of roadsters and track horses. During the next few years he and his partner owned a number of famous and valuable animals, among them being Leo, record 2:12 $\frac{3}{4}$ , on Yorkville track; and Rex M., record 2:26 $\frac{1}{4}$ , sold for \$2,000. After the death of Mr. Coy, September 20, 1897, the roadsters were disposed of at a sale, since which time Mr. Manchester has given his attention to the farm and stock business.

The Republican party receives the support of Mr. Manchester. For some years he has been a member of the village and school boards. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and holds the office of banker in the local camp. He is one of the representative and substantial men of Newark, and his comfortable residence in the village, which his farm adjoins, is one of the landmarks of the place, having been in possession of the same family for more than sixty years.

**C**APT. FRANKLIN MOODY HOBBS. Years of business activity justly give a man a high position in his community. It is said that Captain Hobbs has been engaged in business for a longer period than any other resident of Yorkville, and during this long time he has won

and retained the confidence of his business associates and of the general public. A gentleman of upright character and conscientious methods, his dealings have always been characterized by a high sense of honor and the most unwavering integrity.

In Falmouth, Me., Captain Hobbs was born January 20, 1829. His father, Josiah Hobbs, a native of Maine and for years a farmer in that state, finally came to Illinois, where he spent his last days. In religion he was a Congregationalist. By his marriage to Miranda Merrill he had ten sons and one daughter, all of whom are deceased except Franklin M. and his brother in Alabama. The former was reared on a farm. When about nineteen years old he left home and went to Saco, where he took up work in a cotton mill, remaining in the same factory for nine years. In 1856 he came to Illinois and started in business on the north side of the Fox River in Kendall County. Two years later he built the north part of his present place of business and opened the first store on the south side of the river. Later, as the need arose, he added to the store and now has the largest establishment in Yorkville, handling dry-goods, groceries, hats and caps, boots and shoes, etc. The building has a frontage of fifty feet; the old part is ninety feet deep and the new sixty-six feet. About 1890 he took his sons into partnership with him and they have since continued active in the business. At this writing he is closing out the business, expecting to retire from active cares.

Politically Captain Hobbs is a Republican. During the Civil war he showed his patriotic spirit by enlisting in the defense of the nation. His name was enrolled in August, 1862, as a member of Company H, Eighty-ninth Illinois Infantry, which was assigned to the army of the Cumberland and took part in all the campaigns from Louisville to Atlanta. Entering the service as first lieutenant, after the battle of Stone River he was made a captain and held that rank until he was honorably discharged in November, 1864, at the expiration of his time. He then returned to Yorkville and has since given his time and at-

tention closely to his business in this place. In 1861-62 he erected the brick block on the east side of the street and also the residence which he has since occupied. He maintains a deep interest in Grand Army affairs and is connected with Yorkville Post No. 522, department of Illinois, which post he has served as commander.

In 1854, before leaving Maine, Captain Hobbs married Miss Harriet N. Crooker, an estimable lady, who shares with him in the esteem of acquaintances. They became the parents of four sons and three daughters, six of whom are living, viz.: Clara, wife of W. D. King; Charles F., who has been associated with his father in business; Sidney F., also a partner of his father; Glen M., who is an instructor in the University of Chicago; Miranda, at home; and Reuben M., who is in Butte, Mont.

THE HENNING FAMILY was founded in America by Hugh Henning, who crossed the ocean from Scotland during the Revolutionary war. After living about five years in Nova Scotia he settled in Rensselaer County, N. Y., where he died in 1840. Mention of his son, Cornelius Henning, follows: In 1836, four brothers, sons of Cornelius and Marbry (Thurber) Henning, settled with their father in Illinois, coming from Buffalo via the lakes to Chicago and thence to Kendall County. These brothers were born in Rensselaer County, N. Y., their names and dates of birth being as follows: William Thurber, May 2, 1821; Hugh B., June 5, 1823; Cornelius J., September 9, 1825; and Gilbert Denslow, January 28, 1828.

The oldest of the brothers, William T. Henning, purchased one hundred and forty-one acres of unimproved land on section 20, Little Rock Township, and settled thereon soon after his marriage to Marinda Brown. He was one of the first men in the county who successfully engaged in the nursery business. In 1868 he retired from active business and his remaining years were spent quietly in Plano. At his death, in 1881, he left an estate of fifteen hundred acres.



Gilbert Denslow Henning, usually known as Denslow Henning, was the fourth son of Cornelius Henning, and was eight years old when the family settled in Illinois and pre-empted the land on which Plano now stands. Since then he has been a constant resident of the county. He attended the first school established in the township. His father, who was a thrifty and prosperous farmer, died in 1867. He himself is still living and actively interested in local affairs. Farming and stock-raising occupied his attention for years, then he engaged in the grain and mercantile business. He built the first warehouse in Plano and established a general banking business here. In the incorporation of the village he proved a valuable aid. He assisted in securing the establishment of the postoffice here and was made the first postmaster. In educational matters he has also been active. Politically he is a Democrat, and he aids in sustaining the Baptist Church, of which his wife is a member.

The first marriage of Denslow Henning was to Nancy, daughter of David and Nancy (Stewart) Beebe; she died in April, 1873, leaving four children: Lillian G., Mrs C. M. Bailey; Hugh D., a postal clerk; Nancy D.; and Effie O. March 30, 1874, he married Agnes Valentine, and they became the parents of seven children. Those who attained maturity are E. Valentine, Marbry, Gilbert D., Jr., Warren and Isabel.

also raised swine. Owing to the ill-health of his wife, in 1898 he rented his farm and moved to the village of Bristol, where he has since made his home. His grandfather, George Ernst, was a blacksmith in Perry County, Pa.

George Ernst, our subject's father, a native of Bloomfield, Pa., moved to Ohio about 1829 and took up land and cleared a farm in the timber. In order to clear the place for farming he cut down fine old trees and burned them. This same land is now being planted to timber again. In 1851 he drove through with teams from Ohio to Illinois and settled in Kendall County, buying improved land in Bristol Township, just north of the fair grounds, and raising both grain and stock. In 1852 he hauled his grain to Aurora, but afterward the railroad was in operation and he shipped from Bristol. He continued to reside in this county until his death, which occurred in 1892, at the age of eighty-two years. Politically he was a Democrat. While in Pennsylvania he married Anna, daughter of Samuel Kuney, of that state. They became the parents of seven children, viz.: Caroline, who died in 1891; William and Melinda, of Humboldt, Kans.; Mary, wife of Samuel Cooney, of Little Rock Township; George W.; Samuel K., of Kansas City, Mo.; and Sarah Emily, who married John Ford, of Marshalltown, Iowa.

In Champion, Trumbull County, Ohio, our subject was born March 10, 1839. He was twelve years of age when the family came to Bristol Township. From his earliest recollections he has been a hard worker. At a time when most boys were giving their attention to play or to study, he was making himself useful on the farm. When twenty-three years of age he left home and started in the lumber business at Mendota. This was before the railroad had been built to Yorkville. In 1870, after spending four years in Iowa, he opened a lumber yard at the last-named place, and had lumber shipped to Bristol, from which place he hauled it to Yorkville, thus starting the first lumber yard in the village. For fifteen years he continued proprietor of the business. On selling he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty-eight acres in Bristol

**G**EORGE WASHINGTON ERNST dates his residence in Bristol Township, Kendall County, from October 20, 1851. During all the years that have since come and gone he has filled every duty as a man and a citizen. He has laboriously striven to manage his farm affairs in such a manner as to secure the comforts of life for his family. The management of his farm, the ploughing of the land, sowing of the seed, harvesting, threshing, gathering in the grain, these were a few of the duties that filled each year from his early manhood until his retirement from active cares. In addition to raising farm produce, he was to some extent engaged in dairying and

Township, which he still owns. This property is nicely located at the junction of the roads from Bristol to Yorkville and Plano. In 1889 his house was destroyed by fire, and all of the buildings on the place have been erected by him. The value of the land has been greatly enhanced by these and other improvements.

Mr. Ernst was the first police magistrate in Yorkville, and filled the position eight years, and also served as mayor. In his work as magistrate he was remarkably successful and settled many cases without recourse to the law. Politically he is a Democrat. He was a charter member of Yorkville Lodge of Odd Fellows No. 297, and continued connected with it until its disbandment. While he is not a member of any religious denomination he attends the Methodist Church and contributes to its support. February 22, 1866, he married Clarissa, daughter of William Hanson, who came to Kendall County in 1845 from Montgomery County, N. Y., and for a period of twenty-six years lived on the same farm in Bristol Township. At the time the family moved from the east, Mrs. Ernst was an infant of three months. The trip was made by wagon and sleigh, through Canada to Detroit, thence to Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Ernst have one son living, Frank Ernst, who is connected with the Illinois Central Railroad, and resides in Chicago.

**LEWIS CHRISTIAN.** An enterprising and skillful agriculturist, Mr. Christian is the owner of a well-managed and highly productive farm of two hundred acres, finely located on sections 4 and 5, in Lisbon Township. He was born February 18, 1853, in this township, on the homestead which his father, the late Christian Christianson, secured from the government half a century ago. The last-named was a son of Christian Christianson and Alice Slaake, who came with their family to this country in 1847. There were five children, Christian being the oldest. The others were: John, Ole and Charles, farmers in Story County, Iowa; and Elizabeth, now deceased, who was the wife of

the late George O'Brien, of Lisbon Township. The father died in Kendall Township in 1865, and the mother in 1886, aged sixty-five and eighty-five years respectively.

Christian Christianson was born in Norway, near Bergen, May 1, 1825, and there remained until after attaining his majority. In 1847 he emigrated to America, in search of fortune, coming without means, and for several years worked by the month. Prudent and economical, he saved some money, and in 1850 or 1851 he took up a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Lisbon Township, on which he built a small frame house, the only dwelling of any description within a radius of two miles. Beginning his life occupation on a limited scale, he gradually enlarged his operations, in which he was invariably successful, and at the time of his death, July 4, 1890, he was the owner of a valuable and well-kept estate of five hundred or more acres. In politics he was a Republican, and in his religious belief a Lutheran, being a member of the official board of Helmer Church. He married Annie Larson, who was born near Bergen, Norway, March 9, 1830. Her father died in 1833, leaving three children, namely: Lars Larson; Annie, widow of Christian Christianson, now living with her son Lewis; and Susan, who died March 1, 1898, was twice married, her first husband having been Lars Oleson, and her second husband John Thompson, of Iowa. After the death of her first husband Mrs. Christianson's mother married again, becoming the wife of Rev. Nels Oleson. Of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Christianson seven children were born, namely: Lewis, the subject of this sketch; Christian F., a farmer and land owner of Greene County, Iowa; Martin, an extensive agriculturist in Hardin County, same state; Erick, a successful farmer of Hamilton County, Iowa; Nels E., who is likewise prosperously engaged in general farming in Greene County, Iowa; Julia E., wife of William Hillard, of Kendall Township, Kendall County; and Randall, living on the old home farm in Lisbon Township.

Lewis Christian was educated in the district schools, and under his father's instruction was



well trained in agricultural pursuits. At the age of twenty-one years he engaged in farming on his own account on a part of the parental homestead, which he carried on successfully until 1883, when he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in section 4 of Lisbon Township, and to this he added eighty acres by purchase in 1890 and one hundred and sixty in 1900. A man of untiring industry, practical and progressive in his methods, he has made marked improvements on his homestead property, having it well tiled and under a good state of cultivation. He carries on general farming after the most approved modern methods, and is also profitably engaged to some extent in stock raising. He is a consistent Republican in politics and a faithful member of the Lutheran Church.

February 28, 1878, Mr. Christian married Charlotta Oyen, who was born January 9, 1859, in Thronhjem, Norway, a daughter of Ole and Catherine (Beck) Oyen, who emigrated with their family to this country in 1861, settling in Chicago, Ill., where the death of the mother occurred August 22, 1879, and that of the father in November, 1897. Mr. and Mrs. Oyen were the parents of four children, namely: Anton, who was born October 8, 1841, died in Chicago July 10, 1892; Edward E., born May 13, 1848; Mrs. Christian; and one child that died in Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Christian have three children, namely: Otto C., Alvin E. and Frederick O.

OSCAR C. KNUDSON, who is engaged in the livery and ice business in Yorkville as a member of the firm of Knudson & Collman, was born in Kendall Township, Kendall County, Ill., November 11, 1864, a son of Knud W. Knudson. His father, a native of Norway, came to America at sixteen years of age and settled in Chicago when that city was a small village. There and at St. Charles, Ill., he followed the shoemaker's trade. Soon after the beginning of the second half of the century he came to Kendall County and bought eighty acres of government land, for which he paid \$2.50 an acre. The

land was raw prairie, destitute of improvements. He broke the sod and put up necessary buildings. The produce from his farm he at first hauled to Chicago and sold there; later took it to Morris, and when the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy came through Bristol he found that place a more convenient market. After a time he sold his place and moved across the line in Lisbon Township, buying one hundred and sixty acres of improved land, and later a tract of the same size in Kendall Township. At the time of his death he left three hundred and twenty acres of finely improved land, on which he had engaged in raising grain and stock.

Politically an active Republican, he was a delegate to conventions of the party and held some of the township offices. The public school system had in him an ardent advocate, and he served for many years on the school board. His work in that direction was by no means easy, for the foreigners in his section insisted on having parochial schools, and he thus had much to contend with. In religion he was a Lutheran. He was twice married, but the two children of his first marriage are now deceased. One died in infancy, and Mattie C. became the wife of James R. McHugh. His second wife, Caroline Anderson, bore him six children, three of whom are living: Oscar C., Mrs. Ella C. Collman and Julia A. Knudson. The father died April 17, 1886; the mother is still living.

After studying for some years in public schools our subject entered the Northwestern College at Naperville, from which he graduated in the commercial course and took three years in the scientific course. Owing to his father's illness he returned home before completing his scientific course and assumed management of the farm. This he carried on for two years before his father died, and for three years afterward. He then came to Yorkville and bought the drug business of W. R. Newton, which he conducted for six years, in connection with C. E. Moore. However, the confinement proved injurious to his health, and he therefore sold out and embarked in the livery business with his brother-in-law, Henry J. Collman. The firm has a large line of vehicles and

keeps sixteen head of horses. They have a well-equipped barn of two stories, 40x80 feet in dimension. In addition to this business, Mr. Knudson bought out the interests of the other heirs to the home farm, which he still owns and oversees, but which is rented to tenants.

Politically he is a Republican, and while in Lisbon Township he served as collector for two years. In the Methodist Church he has held the office of steward. Fraternally he is a member of Kendall Lodge No. 471, A. F. & A. M., and the Modern Woodmen of America, the local camp of which he was among the first to join.

June 23, 1882, he married Minnie A., daughter of Robert Wilkinson, a sketch of whom appears in this work. They have two daughters: Marguerite Viola and Marjorie.

**YELL THOMPSON ALDRICH.** The farm which Mr. Aldrich owns is situated in Fox Township, Kendall County, and consists of two hundred and twenty-three acres, this being the tract that was purchased by his father from the government. The place contains all the improvements of a first-class, modern farm. The buildings are neat, well-equipped and adapted to their varied purposes, and on every hand are evidences of the owner's thrift and painstaking industry. In fact the estate is one of the best-kept in the township, and Mr. Aldrich still gives it close personal attention, though no longer living on it.

The birth of Mr. Aldrich took place in Fulton County, N. Y., June 13, 1824, his native town being then known as North Galloway. His father, Nathan Aldrich, was a native of Rhode Island and a son of Dr. John Aldrich, a valiant soldier in the Revolutionary war and a descendant of English ancestors. Nathan Aldrich married Naomi Kellogg, who was born in Vermont, but moved to New York in girlhood and was living there at the time of her marriage. In 1838 they came west to Illinois and settled on section 18, Fox Township, Kendall County, taking up land from the government and beginning its clearing and cultivation. It was here

that the father died in 1844 and the mother a few years later.

When a boy our subject lived with his parents on the home farm in New York. He accompanied them in their removal to Illinois and assisted in the cultivation of the land. Reared to farm work and having a taste for the occupation, he naturally chose it for his vocation in life, and for years personally superintended the cultivation of the homestead taken up by his father. In 1888 he retired from the active supervision of the farm and moved to the village of Millington, where he now makes his home. However, he still overlooks the management of the farm, and the estate bespeaks his careful attention, which has not been lessened with his advancing years. In politics he is a Republican, and has been elected on the ticket of his party to a number of offices, among them that of supervisor, which he filled with efficiency.

The marriage of Mr. Aldrich took place November 7, 1850, and united him with Miss Delia A. Southworth, daughter of James and Delia W. (Day) Southworth, who settled in Illinois in 1838, coming from Oneida County, N. Y. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich consists of two sons and one daughter, namely: Nathan J., a well-known resident of Aurora; Mrs. Lizzie A. Marvin, who is living at Springwater, Livingston County, N. Y.; and Edward P., a resident of Millington. November 7, 1900, the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich was celebrated at their home in Millington, attended by a large assemblage of relatives and friends of early days.

**A. DARNELL,** attorney-at-law, Plano, was born in Squaw Grove Township, DeKalb County, Ill., June 20, 1866. He was the fifth of a family of seven boys. His father, Benjamin A. Darnell, was born June 12, 1833, in a fort on the Big Sandy Creek, to which place his parents had retreated at the time of the Black Hawk war. His mother, whose maiden name was Anne C. Neer, was born in Maryland, June 21, 1839.



Mr. Darnell was educated at Jennings' Seminary, Aurora, Ill., and at the Union Christian College at Merom, Sullivan County, Ind. He taught school each winter from 1885 until 1897, prosecuting his studies as best he could while teaching for three or four months during the winter, the remainder of the year being spent in school. After leaving Merom, Ind., he devoted his spare time to the study of law and was admitted to the bar March 30, 1897. September 1, 1897, he began the practice of law at Plano.

Mr. Darnell was married June 15, 1898, to Alice M. Hiscock, daughter of George and Emma Hiscock. She was born near Creston, Ill., April 22, 1875, and is the third child in a family of four girls. She is a graduate of the Creston public school, and has taught several terms.

**A**MOS DAVIS CURRAN. During the eleven years past, Amos Davis Curran's influence in the educational affairs of Kendall County has been marked, and every department of this important work now is in a hopeful, flourishing condition. His efforts to improve and permanently raise the local systems of instructing the young have been unremitting, and great credit is due to him.

Henry Curran, father of our subject, was of Scotch-Irish descent, and the greater part of his life was spent in Lansingburg and Williamstown, N. Y. He followed the free, healthful life of a farmer, and owing to his fine constitution and temperate, sensible habits, he attained the extreme age of one hundred years. He died in 1859, and was survived by his wife, who was born in Rutland, Vt., and who died in 1867, when she was in her seventy-fourth year. Before marriage she was Miss Sarah Davis. Of their eight sons and two daughters two sons are living—Charles Curran, of Williamstown, N. Y., and the subject of this sketch, the youngest of the family.

The birth of Amos D. Curran took place in Williamstown, N. Y., August 25, 1836. He completed his education in the seminaries of Fulton, Oswego County, and Cazenovia, Madison

County, N. Y., and on the home farm he mastered the routine of agriculture by the time that he arrived at his maturity. In 1856 he came to Illinois, and, after attending Wheaton College for a short time, preparing himself in special branches of learning, he embarked upon his long career of teaching. He was employed in the public schools of Kane and Kendall Counties until 1862, when the need of his country gained the first place in his mind and heart, and all other considerations were placed in the background.

Enlisting in the Eighty-ninth Illinois Infantry, August 12, 1862, Mr. Curran served faithfully at his post of duty until the close of the war. As a private of Company H he was actively engaged in the dreadful battle of Stone River, and for his gallantry he was then promoted to the rank of sergeant. He participated in the numerous engagements with the enemy in the campaign in Tennessee, and at the battle of Picketts Mills, Ga., May 27, 1864, was severely wounded. After he had languished in the field hospital for a period he was removed northward, by stages, being assigned to different regular hospitals, and while still on crutches he taught the post school at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis. He was mustered out of the service August 12, 1865.

Returning to Kendall County Mr. Curran resumed his former work, teaching in the graded schools of Bristol until 1871, also being connected with the mercantile interests of the place for three years. Unfortunately he then went to Chicago, where he had just become well started in merchandising when the great fire swept away all of his possessions. He was brave and plucky, and, little daunted, he soon embarked again in business, and for five years was quite successful. Then coming back to Bristol he began teaching once more, for his heart always has been in this work more than in any other.

Always a loyal Republican Mr. Curran has been an active worker in its ranks. He was appointed and served for four years as postmaster of Bristol, and in 1889 he was called to the position he has since filled, that of superintendent of the schools of Kendall County. The graded

system, practically, has been in force here for some time, and the qualifications of all teachers employed are of a much higher standard than formerly. The schools of Kendall County under Mr. Curran's supervision are in a prosperous condition, and rank with the best of the state.

For many years Mr. Curran has been an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and for one year he served as commander of Post No. 522, of Yorkville, and at the present time is chaplain of the post. He is also secretary and treasurer of the Eighty ninth Illinois Reunion Association, and of the Company H Association. He is a trustee and member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Bristol, and for twenty-five years he has been superintendent of the Sunday-school.

November 29, 1866, Mr. Curran married Henrietta W. Edwards, of Sheboygan, Wis. Their eldest-born, Charles, is engaged in business in Chicago; Lola E. is the wife of D. R. Sterling, a teacher in the township high school at Harvey, Ill.; Harry E. is a salesman for a New York firm; Paul is a student in the Chicago Dental College; Clarence, his twin, is traveling for a Chicago manufactory; Mabel L. is at home; and John is attending the Chicago Dental College.

**T**HOMAS DOWDSWELL WAYNE, SR. Throughout a long and useful life, covering the greater portion of the nineteenth century, Mr. Wayne has maintained a high standing as a man. Both among his acquaintances in England and in America his reputation is the highest. As a result of keen and energetic business methods he has accumulated a competency that enables him to spend the evening of his days in the enjoyment of all the comforts of life. While he is retired from active business cares he nevertheless still superintends the management of his property, including eight hundred acres of farm land in Kendall County. That he is a good landlord is evinced by the fact that his tenants remain with him for long periods, one family having been on the same

place twenty-five years, and others in proportion.

Mr. Wayne was born in Cricklade, Wiltshire, England, November 16, 1817, the oldest son among the four children of William and Sarah (Dowdswell) Wayne. His father, who was an architect and builder and had contracts for a great deal of railroad construction, successfully carried on a large business, and for years engaged extensively in the building of railroads in his native country. As a citizen he attained local prominence and wielded an influence for good in his neighborhood. In religion he was connected with the Church of England. He died at Brighton, England, when advanced in years, and after his death his widow came to America with the family. Our subject at the time was fourteen years of age. He grew to manhood in Montreal, and there and in Quebec engaged in business as an importer, frequently visiting Europe for the purpose of making purchases. At the time of the discovery of gold in California, in 1849, he went to California via the Isthmus of Panama, and was engaged in merchandising there eighteen months, after which he spent four months on the Sandwich Islands. Returning to San Francisco he took passage for New York by way of the Isthmus. He has always been an ardent sportsman, and, hearing that great quantities of fine game could be found in Illinois, he was induced to come to this state. He settled at Oswego, which was at that time the county-seat of Kendall County.

Some time after his arrival in Oswego, Mr. Wayne built an elevator and engaged in the grain and produce business, which he continued many years, meeting with success. In 1887 he retired from business and returned to England, where he resided until the time of the World's Fair in 1893. However, though attached to the land of his birth, he never forgot his old home in Illinois, and in 1893 returned here to spend the remainder of his life. From a business point of view he has been a very successful man. His possessions are the result of his energy, good judgment and wise investments, and are well deserved. After becoming an American citizen he identified himself with the Democratic



party and continued to vote with that party until the silver issue of 1896 and 1900, when he cast his ballot for the Republican candidates. At one time he served as president of the board of trustees of Oswego. Finding the town in debt he advanced from his private funds the money with which to pay the debt and place the village upon a substantial footing financially. Fraternally he has been a member of both the Masonic and Odd Fellows' Orders. In religion, both he and his wife have always been identified with the Episcopal Church.

Mr. Wayne has always kept up his acquaintance with relatives and boyhood friends in England, and has made thirty trips across the ocean. On one of these trips, in 1844, he married Jemima, daughter of Joseph and Maria (Palmer) Dommett, of Frome, Somersetshire, England. Her father was a large landed proprietor in Frome and had the title of Esquire. His estate, "Phoenix Hall," was one of the old places of the town, and he was a man of influence, and was an active member of the Church of England. Mrs. Wayne passed away December 7, 1900. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne consists of two sons. The elder, Thomas D., is a member of the board of trade in Chicago. He married Miss Abbie Lyons and they have two children, a son and daughter, Albert and Mabel. The son is also a member of the board of trade. The younger son, Joseph H. D., remains in Kendall County and carries on a farm in Oswego Township. He married Miss Lizzie Hudson, whose father, Henry S. Hudson, has been county judge of Kendall County since 1865.

**A**NDREW BRODIE. A sturdy representative of the grand old country of Scotland, which has given to America some of its best citizens, was Andrew Brodie, who for years was one of the most honored residents of Fox Township, Kendall County. For many years he was one of the most honored and influential men of his section. He held the office of road commissioner eighteen years, meantime aiding in the opening and improving of roads. He was often

urged to accept the office of supervisor, but always declined. For many years he served as a school director, and the schools of his district owed not a little to his intelligent oversight.

Mr. Brodie was born in Forfarshire, Scotland, September 18, 1817, a son of Robert and Jane (Guthrie) Brodie. He learned the trade of a stonecutter in his native land. In 1841 he came to America on an old sailing vessel that anchored in New York harbor. From there he came to Illinois, spending the winter in Fulton County. In the spring of 1842 he removed to Somonauk Creek, and spent a year there with his brother William, who had come to this country a year before. During that year he learned the blacksmith's trade. They then moved to what is now Harding, La Salle County, and spent four years there, when their shop was burned down. In 1850 our subject traveled overland to California, having charge of a company of thirty-six men. He traveled by horses as far as Salt Lake City, where his horses were taken sick from drinking alkali water, and he was obliged to resort to oxen to complete the journey.

At the expiration of five months and twenty days from the time of starting he arrived at his destination. For a time he mined, also engaged in freighting and the provision business, and met with success. After two years in the far west he returned to Illinois via the Isthmus of Panama. On his return he and his brother sold their farm in La Salle County, and he bought two hundred and twenty-six acres on section 19, Fox Township, Kendall County, for which he paid \$1,500. Only fifty acres had been broken. The only building was a log-house, in very poor repair. The roof was so defective that Mrs. Brodie was obliged to place receptacles in various parts of the house to catch the water whenever there was a rain. Most of the land was covered with hazel brush. Mr. Brodie used four yoke of oxen in breaking the ground. He also operated a quarry and had two lime kilns on the place. From these he secured the lime used in the erection of the majority of brick buildings used in Plano and Sandwich. In fact the reputation of the lime spread over the surrounding country, and he re-

ceived orders for lime from people in Earlville, Harding and other places. After coming here he erected the residence in which the family now reside. At the time of building he furnished employment to a large number of men, and Mrs. Brodie had to cook for twenty-two persons altogether. The yard enclosing the residence and barns is surrounded by a stone wall four feet above ground, and one of the barns is also built of stone. He raised farm produce and stock, having on his place horses, cattle and sheep. In religion he was of the Presbyterian faith, and aided his denomination liberally, also assisted in the erection of other churches in his county.

February 25, 1848, Mr. Brodie married Margaret, daughter of Jenkin and Margaret (Williams) Jones. Mrs. Brodie was the youngest of eight children, and was born in Lampeter, Wales, May 2, 1830. In 1842 she came to America, landing in New York on the same day that Mr. Brodie did, although they were not acquainted then, and did not meet for several years afterward. Her parents settled near Philadelphia, where they remained three years. They then came to Illinois and settled in La Salle County, just across the line from Fox Township. Eight children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Brodie, but only two are now living, William A. and Eliza J. The daughter resides with her mother. The son, who married Alice Grey, and has seven children living, is a farmer in Fox Township. Another son, Graham S., who married Mary Cox and had three children, carried on the home farm until he was accidentally killed in 1899. This accident was caused by the breaking of a circular-saw which he was operating, and which struck him on the head.

During the last months of his life our subject suffered greatly from rheumatism and heart-disease. However, he preserved to the last his interest in others and his enjoyment of the society of friends. On the eightieth anniversary of his birth his family prepared a surprise for him, inviting in a number of his old neighbors and associates, and the occasion proved a delightful one for all. It had been the hope of the family that both he and his wife might be spared to

celebrate their golden wedding anniversary, but a few months before that date his death occurred, October 28, 1897. His widow is active for one of her years, and superintends considerable work, although, necessarily, she has been obliged to relinquish much of the active labors to which she gave her attention for years

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ALEXANDER PATTERSON, assessor of Bristol Township and a prominent citizen of the village of Bristol, was born in this township February 10, 1842, a son of Matthew and Jane (Conell) Patterson. His father, a native of Scotland, emigrated to America in 1835 and became a pioneer of Kendall County, he and his wife at first making their home with a neighboring family in a log cabin until he had completed a house of his own. White settlers at that time were few and Indians still roamed over the prairies. Grain was hauled to Chicago, which was then a small town, without pavements or brick buildings. In the work of building up this country he bore an important part and his name is entitled to lasting remembrance by every patriotic citizen. He was spared to witness the prosperity and growth of Kendall County, and his old age was rendered comfortable by his industry in former days. His wife passed away in September, 1880, and nine years later his death occurred. Further mention of his life will be found in the sketch of his son-in-law, Simon Dickson, on another page.

The earliest recollections of our subject are connected with pioneer days in Kendall County. He recalls the long walks to the school, the long rides to market, the long days of hard work and the few opportunities for recreation or pleasure. The school he attended was held in a log cabin, and was known as the Hunt school. He remembers the village of Bristol when it was first started. He has seen the development of the country from a wilderness to a fine farming region, bearing every evidence of the wealth of its owners.

A few months after he was twenty years of age



Mr. Patterson enlisted in the Union service. In August, 1862, his name was enrolled in Company H, Eighty-ninth Illinois, which was assigned to the army of the Cumberland, McCook's Twenty-eighth Corps. After the battle of Chickamauga the regiment was reorganized and assigned to the Fourth Army Corps, commanded by Gen. O. O. Howard. He took part in the battle of Stone River December 31, 1862, and was there struck in the head by a minie ball, which destroyed the sight of his right eye. Among his other engagements were Missionary Ridge and the engagements en route to Lovejoy, south of Atlanta, the one hundred and forty miles being a continuous battle ground. After the battles of Franklin and Nashville he accompanied the troops against Hood. During his entire time of service he was away from his regiment but once, and that was at the time he was ill with smallpox. He was discharged as corporal June 10, 1865, at Nashville.

On returning from the army Mr. Patterson worked with his father on the farm. In 1872 he married and started out for himself, purchasing a farm of ninety-two acres in the corner of sections 17, 18 and 19. This he cultivated as long as his health permitted, but, owing to the effects of his army service, he was unable to do as much manual labor as he wished. In 1888 he retired from active work and settled in Bristol, renting his farm until 1900, when he disposed of it. As a Republican he has been prominent in local politics and has served as a delegate to conventions. For six years he has served as assessor and also has the office of collector. Since the organization of Yorkville Post No. 522, G. A. R., he has been one of its most prominent members. He is not connected with any church, but attends and contributes to the Methodist Church, of which his wife is a member.

February 8, 1872. Mr. Patterson married Nancy E., daughter of Daniel and Chloe Ann (Whitlock) Stocksleger. Two children were born of their union, but both are deceased. Mary Elizabeth was born in May, 1873, and died September 13, 1874. John H. born March 1, 1876, died January 8, 1885. Mrs. Patterson's father

came from Rochester, N. Y., to Illinois in 1836, when a young man. He took up government land on section 20, Bristol Township, and endured all the hardships of a pioneer's existence. Deeply interested in public affairs, and an educated man, he was an aid to the citizenship of his township. He held most of the township offices. A progressive man, he was one of the first to purchase improved farm machinery, and afterward he handled considerable as agent for various companies. He was successful both in raising grain and stock. He aided in building the Methodist Church at Yorkville, of which he was an active member. His death occurred in 1859, when he was still in life's prime. He left four children: Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Mary O'Brien, Chloe E. and David H., the latter a resident of Michigan. The original Stocksleger homestead is still owned by two of his daughters, Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Patterson.

**R**ALPH HEAP, who has made his home in Lisbon and Seward Townships, Kendall County, since 1849, is one of those brave men to whom our nation is indebted for its perpetuation after the fierce struggle between north and south. During the progress of the Civil war he offered himself to his adopted country. His name was enrolled in Company H, Eighty-ninth Illinois Infantry, in August, 1862, and he was sent with his regiment to the front, where he participated in a number of engagements with the Confederate forces, among the most important of which were those at Perryville and Lawrenceburg. After some time he was taken ill and sent to the hospital at Stone River, from which, at the expiration of his term of enlistment and as soon as he was able to leave, he was honorably discharged. He is now an active member of the Grand Army Post at Yorkville.

Of English birth and parentage, Mr. Heap was born near Ashton, in Lancashire, July 24, 1837. His father, Edwin Heap, who was likewise a native of Lancashire, was a cabinet-maker by trade, and, desiring to settle in a country where he could take up agriculture and thus give his boys

a better chance, he emigrated to the United States in 1849, crossing the ocean on the sailing vessel Blanchard, which spent six weeks on the water and encountered a very severe storm. After landing in New York he traveled via boat to Albany, and from there by railroad to Buffalo, thence by the lakes to Chicago, and by canal to Morris. Coming to Kendall County he bought a soldier's right, paying \$100 for one hundred and sixty acres in Seward Township, just south of our subject's present homestead. He also rented other land, which he operated for three years, meantime breaking and putting under plow his own tract. Like all of the early settlers, he suffered considerably from prairie fires. He had all the hardships of frontier life, but he lived to see his farm one of the best improved in the township, and could look back in his closing years over a long and useful period of toil, the fruits of which he enjoyed in his last days. Though not active in politics, he was induced to accept the office of path master, which he filled with the greatest efficiency. His death occurred in 1873. Before leaving England he married Hannah Prestwitch, a native of the same locality, and daughter of William Prestwitch. Of their seven children the following survive: James, Ralph and Abel, all of whom are well-to-do farmers of Seward Township; and Alice, who is the wife of J. E. Williamson and lives on the old homestead. Edwin Heap was a son of Jonah and Molly (Schofield) Heap, also of English birth.

When the family settled in this county our subject was a boy of twelve years. For several years he was a member of the Mutual Improvement Society. This was an organization each of whose members gave to the others instruction in those lines in which he was best posted. As soon as he was able to assist he took up work on the home place, and since then has done a great deal of hard work. At the age of twenty-five years he started out for himself. At first he worked eighty acres, this being the land where he now resides. He has since added to it by the purchase of other property. He has bought and improved several farms, on some of which he has settled his children. At this writing he owns

three hundred and sixty-five acres, all of which he has made by his own industrious and persevering efforts. His specialty has been grain farming. In stock he has a large number of swine. All the improvements on the place were made under his personal supervision. After so many years of diligent work he is now living retired from active labors, enjoying the leisure he so richly deserves. However, he is so energetic by nature that he still maintains the management of his varied interests, being happiest when engrossed with his work. In politics he is a Republican. Among offices he has held are those of assessor, three years; commissioner, six years; and school director thirty consecutive years, with the exception of only one year. In the First Congregational Church he serves as deacon.

The marriage of Mr. Heap took place in 1864 and united him with Eliza A. Coop, daughter of John and Nancy Coop. They became the parents of ten children, eight of whom are living, viz.: John Edwin, a farmer of Lisbon Township; William, a farmer of Seward Township; Louisa, who married Charles Dirst, a farmer and sheep feeder of Au Sable, Grundy County, Ill.; Emma, the wife of A. Lincoln Holbrook, of Seward Township; Nellie, at home; Albert, who is engaged in farming in Seward Township; Mary Alice, wife of Clarence Churchill, of this township; and Arthur, who operates the homestead.

Mr. Heap has been something of a traveler and beside attending the Centennial and Columbian expositions, paid a visit to the scenes and friends of his childhood in 1896.

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**C**LARENCE S. WILLIAMS, who is creditably serving as treasurer of Kendall County, has the honor of being the youngest man in the state of Illinois to whom the responsibility of this important office has been entrusted. He was but twenty-four years old at the time of his election to this position, November 8, 1898, and though so young a financier he has fully justified the confidence which the people reposed in him, and his future is one of great promise.



Mr. Williams is proud of the fact that he is one of the native-born sons of Illinois, and his whole life has been passed in the northeastern section of the state. His birth occurred in Cook County, August 4, 1874. His paternal grandfather, William Williams, came to Illinois at an early day, when he was a young man, and at that time he was employed in the construction of the old Illinois and Michigan Canal. Subsequently he located in LaSalle County, where he became wealthy and prominent, accumulating about eight hundred acres of valuable farming property by the exercise of industry and prudent investment of his earnings. Of his seven sons and one daughter, our subject's father, William Williams, was the eldest and his birthplace was in Mission Township, LaSalle County. Until 1882 he was engaged in agricultural pursuits, but since that time he has given his attention to the management of a store in Newark, Ill. He has been quite a factor in local Republican politics. In religion he is an influential member of the Lutheran Church. For a wife he chose Belle Lee, of Kendall County, and their eldest child, Girard A., is a graduate of Beloit College, and after serving for two years as assistant superintendent of the high school at Amboy, Ill., he went to Chicago, where he accepted a position with the Aermotor Company, and in the meantime has been attending a night law school. The only daughter, Ida, died when in her twelfth year.

Clarence S. Williams received a good education in the public schools of Newark, Ill., and when he was fourteen years of age he entered upon his business career, and for six years he was connected with the mercantile interests of Millbrook, Ill. Then, as previously stated, he was made a candidate for the office which he now occupies, and in the election of 1898 was duly elected. He is active in the councils of the Republican party and has been sent to conventions as a delegate from his locality. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and to the Royal Neighbors. He is also a member of the Hamilton Club of Chicago.

August 24, 1898, Mr. Williams married Mary Etta Budd, daughter of Jacob Budd, of Millbrook,

Ill. The latter, who was one of the honored early settlers of this state, was a native of the vicinity of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and when he was about forty years of age he came to the west and started in business at Newark. Later he bought a farm near Millbrook, and gradually added to his possessions until they comprised one thousand acres, located in Fox Township. He has occupied a high place in the esteem of his neighbors; and for a period he was their choice as postmaster of Millbrook, and in other local offices of trust. He has been noted for his public spirit and some years ago he donated the land to the railroad on which the station was erected. He is an ardent Republican, as is his son-in-law, Mr. Williams. To himself and wife, formerly Mary Ann Greenfield, seven children were born. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are the parents of a little daughter, who bears the name of Jeanette.

**JOHN GEORGE GREENACRE.** For years agriculture has formed the most important occupation of the people of Kendall County. Some of the farmers here devote their attention almost exclusively to the raising of cereals, while others make a specialty of the stock business. It is to the latter branch of agriculture that Mr. Greenacre has devoted himself for years in Bristol Township. The firm of John G. Greenacre & Son is one of the heaviest shippers of stock in the entire county, and it is said that no other company and no individual exceeds the shipments made by them. While they ship to some extent from Bristol and Plano, their shipments are mostly from Yorkville, from which place they send as many as one hundred and eighty carloads each season to the Chicago market.

Of English birth and parentage, a son of William and Ann (Williamson) Greenacre, both of whom died in England, our subject was born in Plumstead May 23, 1836. His education was obtained in common schools and in a Latin and Greek school. After leaving school he engaged in the stock business with his father, who was a prominent stock-dealer and who attended the

London market every Monday for many years. In 1862 our subject came to America. He had a brother, James Greenacre, who had settled in Kendall County in the early '40s and had bought and improved government land. On arriving in Kendall County our subject engaged in farming for three years, after which he turned his attention to the stock business. Settling in Bristol, he erected the residence where he has since resided. His integrity in business transactions is recognized by all with whom he comes in business contact. He buys stock throughout all of the surrounding country, so that he is well known among the raisers of stock. For some time he used the present creamery as a place to feed stock. Later he put it in shape for creamery purposes and rented it to Fred Young, to whom he later sold it.

August 10, 1857, Mr. Greenacre married Miss Maria E. C. Booty, a native of Holt, England, where they were married. They became the parents of six children, two of whom are deceased. Four are living, namely: Walter C., who is in partnership with his father and resides in Bristol; C. Albert and Frank G., who are engaged in the stock business at Hinckley; and Alice A., wife of Joseph Eccles, of Bristol Township. Both Mr. Greenacre and his wife were reared in the Episcopal faith, but, there being no church of that denomination in Bristol, they attend the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Greenacre has never cared for official positions, nor has he sought prominence in local affairs, but is nevertheless well posted concerning the problems of the age and politically supports the Democratic party.

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**C**HARLES EDWIN SLEEZER, a prosperous and progressive farmer and stock-raiser of Kendall County, conducts a farm of one hundred and eighty-four acres in Big Grove Township. He is the son of Seth C. and Eliza A. (Kellogg) Sleezer, and was born on the homestead of his parents in Fox Township, April 16, 1852. He was reared on the farm, being edu-

cated in the common schools and at Fowler Institute, of Newark. When of age he rented the homestead and continued to reside with his parents until his marriage to Maggie E. McMath, April 10, 1879.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Sleezer erected a house, in which he and his wife began house-keeping. In 1882 he purchased one hundred and four acres, which is a part of the present property that he owns. In 1892 he added a tract of eighty acres. He has now one of the finest farms in the Fox River valley. The location is most picturesque and especially desirable for a residence. Although most of the land is under cultivation, he has engaged largely in stock-feeding, devoting his time in this direction chiefly to the raising of swine and sheep. For a time, in 1897, with his brother-in-law, Mr. Jasinsky, he operated the Millington elevator, but, on the whole, has devoted himself quite closely to his agricultural interests.

In politics Mr. Sleezer has always been independent, but since he became a voter has given his earnest support to the temperance cause. In 1888 he was a candidate on the Prohibition ticket for sheriff. For eleven years he has been a director of school district No. 4. All in all he is a successful and representative citizen of the county. He and his wife have one child, Lyle V. O. Sleezer.

Mrs. Sleezer is a daughter of Samuel and Isabella (Barton) McMath, and was born in LaSalle County, Ill., April 10, 1855. In the early '50s her parents came to this state from Indiana, and her father was for some years before his death a farmer and miller at Millington, and, with others, erected the Millington woolen mills, of which he was president and superintendent for some time. For years he was justice of the peace. His widow is still living on the old homestead. They had five children. John, a civil engineer living at Oakland, Cal., was engineer of the bridge at Plano and also constructed the iron bridge at Millington. Julia, the wife of Charles French, resides at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mary J. is married to Arthur Jasinsky, who owns the old homestead in LaSalle County.



Maggie E. is the wife of Mr. Sleezer, and Sadie A., the youngest of the family, since she was sixteen years of age, has taught in the public schools of Illinois, Colorado and Iowa, and for five years was a teacher in the public schools of Millington.

JOSEPH ECCLES, who is one of the enterprising and reliable farmers of Bristol Township, Kendall County, was born in this township January 27, 1860. His father, James Eccles, one of the honored pioneers of the county, was born in Dungauon, Ireland, July 12, 1820, and came to America at eighteen years of age, settling in Pennsylvania, where he married Miss Maria Salsburg. As early as 1849 he came to Kendall County, and for a time was employed by a Mr. Pearce, for whom he had worked in the east. Later, however, he began farming for himself. Being a practical, energetic man, he soon got a start and acquired considerable property. On section 7, at the time he purchased his farm, stood a small house, and this he afterward remodeled and enlarged, making it practically a new residence. He also put up the barns on the farm. In addition to the raising of farm produce, he devoted some attention to the stock business, raising cattle, hogs and sheep. Through his wise judgment and industry he acquired one thousand acres of land, some of which was under the plow and the remainder used for the pasturage of his stock.

Public affairs received his earnest attention. He was a staunch Republican and always voted with his party. For fifteen years he held the office of highway commissioner, in which position he materially advanced the interests of his community by opening up new roads and improving the old ones. Some seven years before he died he retired from farm labors and removed to Yorkville, where he died November 22, 1894. His body is interred in the Oak Grove Cemetery, near Bristol.

Of eleven children comprising the family of James Eccles, the subject of this sketch is the youngest. His education was begun in the pub-

lic schools of Kendall County and completed in the Illinois State Normal School. On the retirement of his father from active farming he became the manager of the homestead, and when his father died he retained the property. He now operates two hundred and sixty acres, on which he engages in mixed farming. On his place may be seen some fine stock, including Jersey cattle, Shropshire sheep and hogs. He is a hard-working man, whose aim has been to place his land under good cultivation and to make it one of the best farms in the township. Although he has little leisure to devote to politics, he keeps posted concerning national problems, is a staunch Republican, has been a delegate to county conventions of his party, and is serving his fourth year as a highway commissioner, an office that his father so ably filled years ago. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. He was united in marriage, May 3, 1892, with Miss Alice A. Greenacre, by whom he has one child, Mabel Alice.

DANIEL ROLLINS BALLOU. As a type of honorable, upright manhood, the life of Mr. Ballou is worthy of recognition. In many respects he was not an ordinary man. Possessing superior ability, with a large fund of energy and determination, he was fitted to assume the responsibilities of business and successfully cope with the hardships and adversities that beset one in life. His public spirit was a recognized and prominent trait of his character. He favored measures for the benefit of Kendall County, where for so many years he made his home. In a broader way he also identified himself with enterprises of a nature beneficial to the state, and at the time of his death was serving as state warehouse commissioner and also as president of the board of trustees at the insane asylum at Jacksonville.

A son of Rollins and Charlotte (Phelps) Ballou, our subject was born in Cortland County, N. Y., November 29, 1837. He grew to manhood on his father's farm, and received his primary education in public schools, afterward at-

tending the Metropolitan College in Buffalo, N. Y. In 1855 he settled in Sandwich, Ill., where he was for some years agent of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad.

At the opening of the Civil war, when a call was made for three months' volunteers, he enlisted in the Union army, joining Company H, Tenth Illinois Infantry. From the ranks he was soon raised to be a sergeant. At the end of his time he re-enlisted for three years, and later served as lieutenant until he was commissioned captain. With the army of the west he served in Kentucky, Georgia and Tennessee until the last of the war, when, owing to sickness, he resigned his commission and was honorably discharged. As an officer he was greatly esteemed. On his return home he recuperated for a time and then resumed work as station agent. Two years later he resigned and removed to Kendall County, settling on section 14, Fox Township, where his widow still lives. Here he operated three hundred and seventy-five acres of land, engaging extensively in the stock business, using for that purpose all the grain that he raised. His specialties were Shorthorn cattle, Shropshire sheep, Poland-China swine and heavy draft horses. Having running water and plenty of shade on his farm, he was excellently situated for stock-raising, and these aids, with his energy and good judgment as prime factors, enabled him to successfully conduct the business through many years.

As a Republican, Mr. Ballou was active in local affairs. He served as delegate to many conventions, and for several terms was supervisor of his township. He was identified with the Masonic order from the time he was old enough to become a member, and was a charter member of Sandwich Chapter No. 107, R. A. M. In the support of the church at Millington he was liberal, and also aided others when called upon. Personally he was a man of very genial disposition, a great lover of children, and fond of having his house filled with young folks, his children's friends and playmates, whose presence he seemed to enjoy as much as they enjoyed his hospitality.

June 18, 1865, Mr. Ballou married Mary L., eldest daughter of Thomas Finnie. Two sons blessed their union. The older, Jay Finnie, is married, and with his brother operates the home place. The younger, Burt Phelps, lives with his mother. For five years after Mr. Ballou's death the family rented the farm, but the sons, becoming old enough to assume its management, took up the work which their father had once superintended.

In his capacity of commissioner Mr. Ballou had charge of building the iron bridge at Millington, and it was while in the discharge of this duty that he accidentally fell from an abutment of the bridge and was killed, February 14, 1884. His sudden death was a great shock to the community, and all united in mourning the loss of so excellent a citizen. After the last tribute of respect had been given him by associates and acquaintances, his body was interred in the Millington-Newark Cemetery.

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**HON. CHARLES THOMPSON CHERRY.**  
 To the majority of the people in Kendall County, Mr. Cherry is best known through his able service in the state legislature and his prominence in local ranks of the Republican party. The principles and aims of the Republican party have ever been near to his heart, and anything that seems in opposition to them meets his frank condemnation. Honoring the party, he has in turn been by it honored in his election to the legislature. He is a man of public spirit, hence endeavors to promote the welfare of his county. It was in 1890 that he was first elected assemblyman. He served in the Thirty-seventh, Thirty-eighth and Forty-first sessions, and April 26, 1900, was nominated by acclamation to succeed himself. The convention at which he was nominated was the shortest on record, lasting only seven and one-half minutes, with not a speech made. This fact in itself goes to show that his popularity is great and his record as a legislator irreproachable. During the Forty-first session he introduced three bills, two of which had been



previously introduced, but lost. One of these provided for uniform fees for recording, etc., in the county clerk's office. Another gave police powers to the officers of fair associations, when outside incorporated cities or towns. The third bill was to protect the people from campers and other itinerants that might settle in a neighborhood, the bill forbidding such parties to camp more than twelve hours in any one township. During the Thirty-seventh session he endeavored to get a bill passed to regulate the stock yards, but the opposing influence was too powerful. With that exception, however, he has been exceptionally successful in getting his bills placed on the statute books and made laws.

In the house in Na-au-say Township where he now lives, Mr. Cherry was born February 20, 1858. His father, Moses Cherry, came from Buffalo, N. Y., to Illinois in 1854 and bought land in Na-au-say Township, paying \$27 an acre for timber land, although he could have bought government land two miles south. After settling here he prospered, adding to his possessions until he owned thirty-two hundred acres at the time of his death, February 4, 1870. In Toronto, Canada, he married Sarah A. Mills, who died April 27, 1881. Of their fourteen children, the following survive: Hamilton and Moses, of Na-au-say Township; John W., who lives in Oswego and is employed in the revenue office in Chicago; Charles T.; Mrs. C. B. Fisher, of Aurora; Mrs. J. S. Williams, of Hyde Park; Mrs. William M. Clow, of Wheatland Township, Will County; and Mrs. E. W. Faxon, of Plano.

The education of our subject was acquired in district schools, Waldo Academy at Geneseo and Jennings Seminary, Aurora. When he was seventeen his brother Robert, who had been conducting the home farm, died, and he then came home from school and took his brother's place on the farm. He has since engaged in raising and feeding cattle, also has a flock of from sixty to seventy-five sheep. In hogs his specialty is the registered Poland-China. He is a man thoroughly informed in every detail of the stock business, hence able to conduct it successfully.

He is connected with the Knights of Pythias, attends the Presbyterian Church, and in Masonry has membership in Raven Lodge No. 303, A. F. & A. M., and the Order of the Eastern Star. December 31, 1879, he married Emma B. Clark, daughter of Henry A. Clark, who came from Hartford, Conn., to Kendall County in a very early day. Mr. and Mrs. Cherry have one son, Clifford A. The family occupies the old homestead, which is one of the landmarks of the township. The frame for the building was shipped from Buffalo via the lakes to Chicago and hauled from there by ox-team. The siding is of black walnut, cut on the ground. The house is large, substantial and comfortable, apparently little the worse for its long use.

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**N**OAH EVANS, a retired farmer and stock-raiser of Kendall County, is the oldest living resident of Little Rock Township. It is signally appropriate, therefore, that some mention of his life and work should be made in this volume. He descends from Welsh ancestry. His father, David Evans, was born in Ashe County, N. C., and in boyhood became a blacksmith and wagon-maker, and, indeed, an "all-around" mechanic. In those days it was necessary for the wagon-maker to manufacture every part of the wagon, which made the task far more difficult and tedious than at the present time. Finally, he decided to seek a home in the north. He made a wagon which he covered with cloth and in this "prairie schooner," in the fall of 1832, with four horses, he made the long trip to Illinois. After a journey of forty-two days he arrived at Magnolia during the latter part of December. The Black Hawk war was about over and the few pioneers of Illinois were resuming their heavy task of clearing and opening farms. He spent the winter in Magnolia and in the spring of 1833 came to what is now Kendall County, settling on the place where our subject now lives. Its contrast in appearance, then and now, cannot be imagined. Not a furrow had been turned in the sod. In its original primeval

condition of nature, the broad acres lay, waiting for the one to come who should dig out the wealth imprisoned in the rich sod. Perhaps the task was less easy than that of seeking for gold in western mines, but the returns were more certain. The pioneer settled down in this lonely place and took up the battle of life, far away from his old home. On the knoll just south of the present residence he built a log house. He then began to get the land in condition to cultivate. The first year he broke five acres. Each year he continued the task of breaking the fresh prairie. He also built a log shop and did blacksmithing and wagon repairing for people who passed by looking for a location, or for those who had already settled in the county. The wheat that he raised he hauled, via ox-team, to Chicago, spending four days on the way. Each autumn he killed and dressed large numbers of hogs and hauled them to market. When the land was placed on the market he secured a title to his claim, and when the land was surveyed, he had four hundred and sixty-three acres. In the summer of 1842 he returned to North Carolina, hoping to regain his health, which had become poor. However, the trip did not help him and he returned to Illinois, where he died in 1844. By his marriage to Betsey Hoppus, of North Carolina, he had four children, but Noah is the only one now living. He was born in Ashe County, N. C., January 23, 1828, and was a small child when the family settled in Kendall County. He recalls the long trip from North Carolina, and remembers that he slept almost every night in a tent they took with them. As soon as he was large enough he helped his father with the work, and was especially helpful in hauling water from the springs for use in the house. Later he was given work of more responsibility. Frequently he hauled produce to Chicago, driving an ox-team. He cut grain with a cradle and bound it by hand, doing a great deal of hard work in those pioneer days.

Upon the division of the estate Mr. Evans received the old homestead, which has never been out of the family. He made a specialty of the stock business, and bought and fed cattle. In

all of his dealings he proved himself industrious, persevering and upright, a useful member of the farming community, which is the bone and sinew of our nation's prosperity. For some years he has been retired from active labors, but still superintends the management of his property. June 18, 1852, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Swift, who came from New York in 1843. She died February 9, 1894, leaving five children, viz.: Lodoskia, wife of Dr. J. C. Sanderson, of Chicago; Leonora, who is married and lives in Bristol Township; Estella, whose husband, F. A. Ryther, is with the Deering Harvester Company in Chicago; Juelle, wife of George S. Faxon, of Plano; and Frank L., who operates the home place.

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JOHN H. SMITH is one of the older residents of Plano, where he is engaged in the insurance and real estate business. He was born in Providence, N. Y., August 2, 1839. His father, Henry T., was a native of Saratoga County, N. Y., and a son of Harmon Smith, who was the earliest of the family in America of whom we have any authentic record. Henry T. followed the machinist's trade and was also a manufacturer of wooden ware, besides which for a time he carried on a dairy business. In 1853 he came west and settled upon a farm in the northwestern part of Little Rock Township, Kendall County. In 1860 he moved to Plano and for a time engaged in dairying, after which he took up merchandising. His next venture was in the tannery business, which he conducted for three years, then sold out and bought one hundred and sixty acres near Shabbona Grove, which he operated, at the same time carrying on an insurance agency. Upon selling the farm he moved to Earlville, but two years later returned to Plano, where he died April 16, 1880. In politics he was a Republican.

Having acquired a good education and a thorough knowledge of business affairs, John H. Smith, at the age of twenty-two years, took a clerkship with A. Steward, with whom he re-



mained about six years, later clerking in his father's drug store for one and one-half years. Later he conducted a clothing and tailoring establishment. In 1868, owing to failing eyesight and poor health, he disposed of his business and for a time did not engage in any enterprise. In 1873 he opened a real-estate and insurance office, in which business he is still engaged. Owing to his honest business methods he has acquired a name for fair dealing and has the confidence of the people of his town and county. In 1893 he formed a partnership with his son, Ivan L. He does business in Kendall, LaSalle, DeKalb, Cook, Lee and Kane Counties. He has dealt extensively in city property and has done considerable building, including the erection of the brick building adjoining the hotel. By his marriage to Clara E. Steward he had eight children, six of whom are living.

**S**AMUEL SEABURY WHITLOCK, who has made his home in Na-au-say Township, Kendall County, since 1845, was born in Rutland County, Vt., March 30, 1832. His father, James, moved to Wayne County, N. Y., in 1836, and nine years later came, via the lakes and Chicago, to Kendall County, where he took up land on section 22, Na-au-say Township. Starting with one hundred and twenty acres he added to it later by purchase. Oxen were used in breaking the land, and his crops were sold in Chicago. He died here in 1876. Twice married, by his first wife he had one daughter, now deceased. By his second marriage he had nine children. Politically he was a Republican, and served as road commissioner and school director.

When the family settled in Illinois, S. S. Whitlock was thirteen years of age. He proved of great assistance to his father. Often he drove with grain to Chicago. He broke prairie land with four or five yoke of oxen, using an old wooden mould-board plow. His work was of the hardest kind, but he was industrious and persevering, and in time became prosperous. After he started out for himself he bought eighty

acres near Dwight, but did not like the location, and traded it for a place in Na-au-say Township, where he built a house and reared his family. In February, 1893, he sold his place and bought where he now resides, on the main road from Yorkville to Plainfield. Here he farms eighty acres of land. He is a Republican in politics. February 18, 1857, he married Mary, daughter of Asa Jones. Of their seven children, all but two are still living.

**W**ILLIAM HILL, county clerk of Kendall County, is a native of this county, and was born in the town of Kendall November 9, 1851. His father, Thomas, who is a pioneer of the county, having settled here in 1847, has been connected with the county clerk's office as deputy for twenty-five years and is a stalwart Republican in political views. At the opening of the Civil war he enlisted in Company E, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, and was assigned to the army of the Tennessee, which he joined in the south and with which he continued until the expiration of the war, a period of four years and three months. Among his most important engagements were the battles of Pea Ridge and Chattanooga. After coming to Kendall County he married Miss Emma Haigh. They are the parents of six children, all living, viz.: William; Sophia; Fred, a business man of Yorkville; Eva, wife of Charles Hobbs; Arthur, who is in the grocery business; and Nancy, assistant principal of the high school. The family are of the Episcopalian faith.

At an early age William Hill began to learn the printer's trade, starting in the business with Hon. John R. Marshall, with whom he continued for twenty years. Meantime he had become prominent in county politics, taking an interested part in politics and adhering to the Republican party, whose principles he has always maintained. It has always been his custom to attend conventions of the party in this county, but he has not identified himself with outside conventions, either congressional or state. In 1882 he was elected county treasurer, and on the expiration

of his term four years later he was elected county clerk, and to this position he has been re-elected at each succeeding election.

Fraternally Mr. Hill is connected with Kendall Lodge No. 471, A. F. & A. M., in which he has gone through the various chairs. In 1874 he married Ella, daughter of Judge Benjamin Ricketson, who was county judge from 1853 to 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Hill have two daughters, Louise and Frances. The family are connected with the Baptist Church.

JOSEPH N. HARRIS, a farmer and dairyman of Kendall Township, Kendall County, was born in Illinois April 9, 1833. His father, William, moved from Virginia to Ohio and settled in Licking County, but in 1832 came to Illinois, first settling in the southern part of Kendall County, but the Indians drove off his stock, stole his household goods and he was obliged to seek another location. Going to Plainfield, he soon went from there to Chicago, which then had about a half dozen houses. Next he went to Naperville, where he worked in a saw-mill for Joseph Naperville, who had laid out the town. Soon he had saved enough to buy a yoke of oxen. He then returned to Kendall County and started to make a homestead at Long Grove, where he took up three hundred acres and put up a log house. Wheat was his principal product and Chicago his market. As soon as possible, he cleared more land and bought more oxen. He succeeded in getting two hundred and fifty acres broken. He assisted in building the first school house here, it being built of logs. In politics he was a Democrat. By his marriage to Rebecca Coombs, he had nine children, four of whom are living.

While the family were living in Naperville, our subject was born, and he was named Joseph Naperville in honor of his father's employer and friend. He remained with his father until he was twenty-one, after which he taught one term of school. Afterward he took charge of the home farm. After acquiring interests of his own, he still managed his father's property. In the fall of 1886 he removed to his present place, which,

being near town, is a convenient location for a dairy. He raises some grain and some hogs, but gives his attention largely to dairying, and milks from twenty to twenty-five cows. Politically he is a Democrat. He has filled a number of local offices and has been school treasurer for twenty years. In the Baptist Church he has held many offices, and for fourteen years officiated as Sunday-school superintendent. By his marriage to Elizabeth Mattock, he has five children: John, Ella, Belle, N. Benton and Ada R.

JUSTUS W. HOUSE, who is living retired in Seward Township, Kendall County, was born in Rome, Oneida County, N. Y., September 3, 1823. His father, Chester House, brought his family to Illinois in 1833, coming via the lakes to Detroit, thence driving overland to Chicago. He reached that place in May, 1833. It had but one frame house at the time and its only hotel was a log building. Hearing from some hunters of a sulphur spring, he came to this place and bought a claim of one hundred and sixty acres which had been taken up by Hugh Walker. Ten acres had been broken. He put up a house of hewn logs 20x30. Almost daily Indians passed down the stream or followed the trail between the house and the AuSable River. The red men showed a desire to be friendly. With six yoke of oxen he proceeded to get his land in shape for cultivation. He had no neighbor between his place and Big Grove (west twelve miles) and Plainfield on the north. With him he brought to the west his old flint-lock gun that he had used in the war of 1812. This he used when wishing to start a fire, and when he was out of powder he had to go to Plainfield and get some before he could build a fire. Wheat and meat he hauled to Chicago, also large quantities of butter. After five years of residence in this county he died in 1838. At that time our subject was fourteen years of age, and he was obliged to assume the responsibilities of life and take up the work his father had left off. As the canal was then building he had a good market. He raised large quantities of potatoes, which he



sold for seventy-five cents per bushel. He cleared the farm of indebtedness and in time became prosperous. House's Grove is known all over the county and is a favorite resort for pic-nics. He continued to operate the farm until about four years ago, when he rented the land and has since lived in retirement. Politically he is a Republican. He has served as school trustee and road commissioner. For fifteen years or more he has been a trustee in the Congregational Church and he helped to build the new house of worship. March 9, 1854, he married Jane, daughter of Peter Van Dyke, who came to Kendall County in 1843.

**T**HOMAS BARNETT DREW, M. D. There is no profession or occupation in which a greater advance has been made than in the science of medicine during the past few decades. It has been brought out of the realms of the empirical into its true sphere as a science. Hence, it presents unusual attractions to the young and ambitious men of the present day. Its possibilities unfold before the eager mind and cause one to realize that success will surely come to him who is a faithful disciple of the profession. It may be said of Dr. Drew that he is thoroughly grounded in the science of medicine. He has had the advantage of study under professors whose superiors cannot be found in the world. Being of an inquisitive mind, he has embraced all of these opportunities and thoroughly grounded himself in professional knowledge. Hence he has before him a career of unusual promise.

The Drew family is of Scotch origin. As a young man, John Drew, father of the subject of this sketch, came to the United States and settled in Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming. Locating in the midst of a dense forest, he hewed the timber, "grubbed" and cleared the land, and developed a farm from the primeval forest. He engaged in raising both grain and stock. About 1865 he came to Aurora, where he has since made his home, during much of the time being foreman in the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy foundry there. In politics he is a Republican,

and fraternally a member of the Woodmen of the World. In the work of the United Presbyterian Church he has been very active and has served the local congregation as deacon and secretary. By his marriage in Aurora, in 1873, to Cecelia M. Provan, he had three children, Thomas Barrett, Cecelia Maude and David Provan. Mrs. Drew is a daughter of David Provan, who was born in Scotland and came from that country direct to Aurora, Ill.

In Aurora, Ill., where he was born in 1875, Dr. Drew received the rudiments of his education in the public schools. There, also, he began to study the medical science, being under the direction of a preceptor in Chicago, but making his home still in Aurora. In 1894 he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago, where he took the regular course of study, graduating in 1897. He had the advantage of study in an institution famous all over the country, and which offered especial opportunities for clinical work. His first knowledge, derived from practical experience, was gained in Chicago, where he had a large hospital practice of a varied and interesting character. Since coming to Oswego, immediately after graduating, he has established a growing practice and an excellent reputation for skill in his profession. In his fraternal relations he is connected with the Knights of Pythias, the Woodmen of the World, the Mystic Workmen, the Blue Lodge of Masonry, and the Chapter of the Eastern Star.

**R**OBERT WILKINSON. One of the pioneers of Kendall County whose name has been closely associated with its history for almost a half century is Robert Wilkinson, a retired farmer living in Yorkville. He was born in Yorkshire, England, July 29, 1824, a son of Robert and Ann (Calam) Wilkinson. His educational advantages were meager. When thirteen years of age he began to be self-supporting, and for some time he was employed as a hand on farms. In 1851 he came to America on the sailing vessel Joseph Badger, which was three weeks in crossing the ocean. Landing in New York

he proceeded west as far as Sturgis, Mich., where he engaged in farming for two years. Hearing that land was cheaper and more fertile in Illinois, he decided to seek a home in this state. The year 1853 found him in Kendall County, where he bought eighty acres in Lisbon Township. The land was raw prairie, on which not a single improvement had been made. The surrounding country was equally unimproved. No roads had been opened, few houses built and few farms cleared. One of the first duties to which he set himself was the building of a frame house. With his team and yoke of oxen, with which he had driven across the country from Michigan, he began the task of turning the furrows in the virgin soil. Gradually he succeeded in breaking the land and raising crops. Then, as now, the market was at Morris. On his farm he raised both wheat and corn. As he prospered he added to his holdings, until he is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres. In addition to the raising of farm produce he gave some attention to the stock business, and made a specialty of Shorthorn cattle and a good grade of hogs. No pioneer of the township did more than he to develop its resources. He was keenly interested in its progress and favored every measure to aid its development. In the early days, in spite of lack of improvements, he had the greatest faith in the future of this region as a farming center. Now this faith has become a reality. He looks back over the past years and delights in contrasting those days with the present. When he came here there was but one bridge between Yorkville and Morris, and the land was so swampy that riding was unpleasant and even dangerous. He saw that the land needed to be drained, so he started a system of tiling that made of his farm a valuable property, and his success in this work encouraged other farmers to follow a similar course. During his service as road commissioner he was helpful in opening and improving roads, and he also aided the district schools while acting as a director. In politics he is a Republican, with a leaning toward the Prohibition party. He assisted actively in building the Methodist Episcopal Churches at Lisbon and Plattville. For

thirty years he was a church officer, and at the same time he was connected with Sunday-school work.

Before leaving England Mr. Wilkinson was married, April 6, 1850, to Miss Ann Stampher. They became the parents of nine children, viz.: William A., who died at six years of age; John T., a merchant in Lisbon; James Edwin, who died February 27, 1900; Fred M., who is engaged in business at Mount Ayr, Iowa; Francis W., who is farming the old homestead; Alvin M., a machinist in the boiler department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad at Aurora, Ill.; George H., a farmer of Seward Township; Minnie A., wife of Oscar C. Knudson, of Yorkville; and Bertha L., deceased. Mrs. Wilkinson died October 9, 1895; her body lies in the cemetery at Lisbon.

Since 1882 Mr. Wilkinson has not engaged actively in farm work. On leaving the homestead the first time he spent a year in Lisbon, but returned later to the farm and remained there until 1896. He then came to Yorkville, and has since made his home with his only living daughter, Mrs. Knudson.

**C**HRISTIAN H. MILLER. The village of Millington is one of the substantial and old-established villages of Kendall County. It was founded more than sixty years ago, and was laid out by Samuel J. Jackson June 20, 1838, under the name of Millford. Since then it has had a comparatively uneventful history. It has numbered among its citizens men of more than ordinary intelligence and ability, and has been foremost in enterprises for the growth and progress of Kendall County. Of the men who now reside here probably none is better known than Christian H. Miller, who is closely identified with the business interests of the place.

A native of Nassau, Germany, born September 15, 1844, Mr. Miller was three years of age when, in 1847, the family crossed the ocean to America and settled in the township of Northfield, LaSalle County, Ill., where his boyhood and youth were spent. Meantime he thoroughly acquainted



himself with the science of agriculture. His education was received in the public schools of the district in which his parents lived. In 1857 he engaged in farming pursuits for himself, and for more than twenty years he continued in this occupation, owning and conducting a large farm in LaSalle County.

From boyhood Mr. Miller showed a fondness for mechanical work. He seemed to possess ability in devising contrivances and tools. In fact, he proved that he had a natural gift as a mechanic. In 1876 he patented a windmill which he manufactured, and which had an extensive sale throughout the country for more than twenty years. The manufacturing of these mills was done in Millington, and, in order that he might more closely look after these interests, in 1884 he retired from the active work on the farm and moved to Millington, where he has since made his home. About two years after he came to this village he became interested in the lumber business and the accessories that go with the trade. He still continues in the business, and now has one of the most extensive yards in the county.

Mr. Miller has been twice married, and is the father of two sons and one daughter. In politics he is a strong Republican, but has never taken an active part in the same. As a citizen he favors measures that will promote the welfare of the village and county. His support is always to be relied upon in the cause of justice and right, and he is loyal to all the best interests of the community.

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**N**ELS SEVERT NELSON. As one of the leading farmers of Big Grove Township, Mr. Nelson is well known throughout Kendall County. If for no other reason he would be entitled to respect and esteem on the ground that he served his adopted country so loyally and well during the Civil war. But this is by no means his only title to esteem. He has proved himself reliable and honest in every walk of life and with every associate. He has been a local Republican leader, working in the interests of his party, and his popularity is indicated by the offices he has

been called upon to fill. For three years he was township collector; for three years highway commissioner, during which time he aided in improving the roads; assessor six years; a member of the board of school trustees for many years; and at this writing is serving as supervisor, to which office he was elected without opposition.

The birth of Mr. Nelson occurred in the state of Bergen, near the city of the same name, in Norway, the date thereof being September 6, 1840. His parents, Severt and Jane Nelson, were also natives of Norway. His father, who was a farmer and land owner, came to America in 1849 and settled in Saratoga Township, Grundy County, Ill., where he bought forty acres of land. At the time there were but two houses between his place and Morris. After six years on that place he sold out and moved to Kendall Township, Kendall County, purchasing ninety-two acres. In the fall of 1864 he died on that place, his death and that of his wife and a daughter occurring, from typhoid fever, within a few weeks of one another. All were interred in the North Lisbon Cemetery.

There were nine children in the family, and all are living but the seventh, a daughter, who died at nine years, at the same time with her parents. The others are: Nels, the eldest; Andrew, a farmer in Polk County, Iowa; Alice, Mrs. Ersland, of Cambridge, Story County, Iowa; Helen, wife of Larson Anderson; Lewis, an attorney in Luverne, Minn.; Joseph, who is a dealer in hardware and agricultural implements at Cambridge, Iowa; Bertha, Mrs. John O. Burke, her husband being an attorney in Fergus Falls, Minn.; and Severt, a farmer and school teacher in Wright, Iowa.

From the age of about nine years our subject has made America his home. Being the eldest of a family whose father was poor, he early began to assist in gaining a livelihood for the younger children. Hence he had few opportunities to attend school. Early familiar with agriculture, he selected it for his life work, and has followed it steadily and constantly, with the exception of the period of his army service. Early in 1862 he rented eighty acres of land near the parental

home and planted it to corn, wheat and oats. September 8 of the same year he enlisted for three years, joining Company E, Ninety-first Illinois Infantry, under Col. Henry M. Day. With his company he was ordered from Camp Butler, Chicago, to Springfield, Ill., October 1. From October 7 to December 27, the company engaged in scouting in Kentucky, and guarded the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. December 27 the rebel General Morgan appeared with his troops at Elizabethtown, Ky., where the Ninety-first was stationed under Lieut.-Col. Henry T. Smith. Following demands of surrender from each commander, a battle began at 1:30 P. M. After a time the Union soldiers exhausted their ammunition and were forced to surrender, with a loss of seven killed, while the Confederates lost over two hundred. In this battle Mr. Nelson was severely wounded, receiving a musket shot through the thigh. The regiment was scattered, the members reaching Louisville as best they could, and there all able to do so, took the cars for St. Louis. Only seven reported at Benton Barracks, the remainder returning home.

As soon as his wound permitted Mr. Nelson returned home, where he spent two months, afterward rejoining his regiment. February 28, 1863, two-thirds of the members of the regiment responded to roll call at Benton Barracks. They remained there until June 5, when they were armed and equipped. July 6 they started via steamer for Vicksburg, with the Twenty-ninth Illinois and Seventh Pennsylvania Regiments. They were given, at Vicksburg, a position on Grant's right wing, where they were especially exposed to the enemy's fire. Their loss by shot, however, was less than that caused by water poisoned by dead bodies. July 24 they left Vicksburg, reaching Port Hudson on the 25th, and remaining there until August 13, engaged in scouting duty. They were then sent to New Orleans, where they remained until September 5. They then, with the second division, thirteenth army corps, proceeded via steamer to Morganza Bend, where they arrived one day later. On the morning of the 7th they started west to the Atchafalaya River, where they arrived about sundown of the

same day. There the brigade encountered the enemy and was forced to retreat six miles. On the 8th they again advanced, this time driving the enemy across the river with little loss to themselves, capturing two hundred of the southern soldiers. On the 9th they marched back to the Mississippi River. The next day they took possession of Morganza. Returning to New Orleans, the regiment was assigned to the first brigade, second division, thirteenth army corps. October 23 they were assigned to patrol duty in that city. Next they started for Texas, via the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico, arriving at Point Isabella November 3, and skirmishing all the way from there to Brownsville. They remained at Fort Brown from November 9 to December 31, when they made their famous raid on a point ninety miles distant, intending to capture the supposed salt works of the enemy. They secured a few hundred horses, mules and cattle, and found a lake of salt water, two miles square, but neither works nor enemy were to be found. January 9 they returned to camp, after a march of two hundred miles, without the loss of a man. Afterward they engaged in frontier duty on the Rio Grande until July 28, when they went to Brazos de Santiago, Tex., and there did garrison duty until September 11. They had a fight with Confederates near Bagdad, and drove the enemy back over the old battlefield of Palo Alto. December 24 they broke camp and took a steamer for New Orleans, where they arrived December 29, and were quartered in the "Alabama Press," doing provost duty until February 21, 1865. They then proceeded to Mobile Point, Ala., and remained there until the advance on Mobile. March 17 the thirteenth corps, General Gordon commanding, with the Ninety-first Regiment in advance, started to march through swamps, building corduroy bridges, swimming creeks and rivers, and finally reaching Mobile. March 27 they met the enemy in force and made such a vigorous attack upon them (the Ninety-first leading) that the Confederates were quick to retreat to Spanish Fort. After a siege of fourteen days, Spanish Fort surrendered April 9. On the same evening the brigade moved to the rear of



Fort Blakely, arriving just as it was captured. The capture of the forts resulted in the surrender of Mobile on the 12th. Later, the Ninety-first found several companies of the enemy engaged in guard duty. A skirmish followed and, after a running fight of three miles, the enemy was routed. This was the last fight east of the Mississippi. After pursuing the enemy to the Tombigbee River, the Ninety-first went into quarters and commenced building Fort Grainger, where they remained until May 9. They then broke camp, went by a steamboat to Mobile, and were there mustered out July 12, reaching Illinois July 22, receiving an honorable discharge July 28 and disbanding July 29, 1865.

During the war, while at home on furlough, Mr. Nelson married Anna Larson, March 17, 1863. She was born in Big Grove Township July 31, 1843, a daughter of Eric and Caroline (Johnson) Larson, who came to this county in 1839. In 1870 Mr. Nelson rented land of his father-in-law and seven years later bought the place, which comprises the northeast quarter of section 1, Big Grove Township. Since then he has engaged in raising cattle for the market. The most of the improvements on the farm were made by himself, including the comfortable residence built in 1883. The family is connected with the Helmar Lutheran Church, in which Mr. Nelson has been a deacon twenty-five years, also superintendent of the Sunday-school several years and a bible class teacher.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are as follows: Lewis, who died at five years; Eric, who married Julia Thompson and lives on a farm in Big Grove Township; Janie, wife of Lars Thorsen, of Lisbon Township; Randy, wife of John Dowick, of LaSalle County; Carrie, who married Nels N. Ness, of Lisbon Township; Anna, wife of Ephraim Danielson, a music teacher in LaSalle County, Ill.; Sarah, wife of Lewis Teudal, a merchant at Helmar, Ill.; Lewis and Severt, who operate the home farm; Alice, Nellie and Isabelle, at home; Joseph, who died at the age of three months; and Joseph (2d), who is at home.

**F**ELTON DRAUDEN. Those of our German-American citizens who have found homes in Will County have had no reason to regret their change of location. With scarcely an exception they have worked out for themselves here a degree of success that would have been impossible in the old country. Among those who have become prosperous farmers is Mr. Drauden, who is a well-known citizen of Plainfield Township. He was born in Prussia June 27, 1837, a son of Nicholas and Margaret Drauden. He was only seven years of age when his father died, and thus from an early period he was obliged to be self supporting. He was eighteen when he left his native land for America. From New York he proceeded a little to the northwest, settling on a farm in the state of that name, where he remained for five years. He then sought Illinois, settling in Will County, of which he has since been an energetic farmer.

Having little money, he was at first unable to purchase a farm here, but after operating for a few years as a renter and meantime carefully hoarding his earnings, he purchased one hundred acres, forming a part of his present homestead. From the first he met with success. He gave his attention largely to the raising of cereals, although he also successfully engaged in raising hogs and carried on dairying, both of which he continues, though on a smaller scale than formerly. The stock he raises are mostly for his own use. A glance at his place shows him to be a thrifty farmer. It is his aim to keep his buildings and fences in good condition and his land under first-class cultivation. All of the buildings on the farm were put up by him. In 1892 he erected the residence now occupied by the family, and in 1897 built a substantial and commodious barn.

**A**NDREW E. CONANT, whose homestead, "The Pines," is one of Plainfield Township's most desirable properties, has been a resident of Will County since the spring of 1854. He was born in York County, Me., December 9, 1815, being a son of Andrew and Sarah (Emerson) Conant.

Until he was twenty years of age he remained at home. On starting out in life for himself he began to cultivate a farm at Kennebunk Port, York County, where he remained for twelve years. On selling his farm he moved to Dexter, where he made his home for six years. While there he built a factory in partnership with the husband of his sister Lucinda, and on the completion of the same he engaged in the manufacture of woolens, remaining in the mill for six years, when it was sold. With his share of the proceeds, amounting to about \$2,500, he came to Illinois, making the trip via Dexter to Portland in a stage, from Portland to Boston by railroad, thence to Buffalo by railroad, and from there to Chicago on the great lakes, taking the canal from Chicago to Fox River, and thence traveling with a team through Illinois and Iowa. He finally concluded that no location was as desirable as Will County. Accordingly he came here, bought one hundred and sixty acres of partly improved land and began to raise farm products. On this place he has since remained. The majority of the improvements have been made under his personal supervision, as when he came there was not even a barn on the farm, and only a portion of the land had been fenced. From time to time he added to his holdings until at one time he owned four hundred and sixty-three acres. For the first land that he bought (in 1854) he paid \$20 an acre. His next purchase was in 1866, the price being \$60 an acre. Fourteen years afterward he bought one hundred acres at \$60 an acre. In 1891 he bought farm land at \$90 an acre.

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**P**ATRICK C. HALEY, attorney-at-law, of Joliet, was born at Saranac, N. Y., March 17, 1849. When he was two years of age his parents, Thomas and Hannah Haley, came to Illinois and settled in Joliet. After gradu-

ating from the high school of this city he took a course of study in the law department of the Michigan State University, from which he graduated in the class of 1871. During the same year he was admitted to the bar and commenced the practice of his profession in Joliet. In April of 1871 he formed a law partnership with J. R. Flanders, but this connection continued only until December of that year. In July, 1874, he entered into partnership with J. L. O'Donnell, and the firm of Haley & O'Donnell is to-day one of the most prominent in northern Illinois.

For years Mr. Haley has been retained as attorney for a number of corporations, including the Michigan Central, Wabash, Santa Fe and Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad companies. He has filled the position of corporation attorney for the sanitary district of Chicago for Will County in matters which involved millions of dollars.

In Mr. Haley the Democratic party has found a steadfast supporter. Having the welfare of the party at heart, he has given to it much of his time and contributed to the promotion of its interests. For a number of years he was a member of the Democratic state central committee. In 1874 his party elected him city attorney, an office that he held for one year. For fourteen years he has been a member of the Joliet city council. In April, 1891, he was elected mayor of the city, and this position he filled for two years. Ten days before the congressional election of 1882 he was nominated by his party for congress. Others had declined to make the race against the Republican candidate, Hon. William Cullen, of Ottawa, for all believed that there was not the smallest chance of victory. However, for the sake of the party, he consented to enter the race. At the close of the election he was declared the successful candidate, but afterward the decision was reversed and it was decided that he lost by seventy-seven votes. This was a remarkable showing, and proved his popularity.



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